



WATER FOR FOOD

Stage 2 projects

Western Australia's Water for Food



The *Water for Food* initiative is a four-year \$40 million Royalties for Regions funded State Government program providing a boost to regional Western Australian communities through the development and diversification of the agriculture and food sectors.

It will create the potential for new irrigation precincts and the expansion of agricultural and pastoral opportunities in existing districts across the state.

The primary objective of *Water for Food* is to identify water and land resources, as well as irrigation technologies, that can enable Western Australia's fresh food and animal protein production to increase its contribution to regional economies by at least 50 per cent by 2025 and twofold by 2050.

The Stage 2 program is a \$24.5 million commitment from the State Government of Western Australia, building on the \$15.5 million provided for Stage 1.

Stage 2 projects

Southern Forests - water futures

Myalup - Wellington

Midlands - groundwater and land assessment

Middle Gascoyne - water investigations

La Grange - West Canning groundwater project

Bonaparte Plains - Kimberley expansion

Water information conversion



Southern Forests - water futures

The Southern Forests - water futures project will underpin agricultural growth and investment in one of the most significant horticultural areas in the southern half of the state.

Working with local stakeholders, the project will identify new water supply options, as well as underpin water security, improving current water use efficiency.

The most viable options for local water supply schemes will be identified, incorporating community dams along with related infrastructure to support expanded agricultural activity. Governance and financial models for ongoing management of the scheme will also be developed.

Benefits to this world class region will include increased investment, a strengthened regional economy and the creation of sustainable employment opportunities.

Myalup - Wellington

Situated on the Swan Coastal Plain, this project will investigate and confirm water supply options to support the expansion of the Myalup and Collie River irrigation districts, enabling growers to double their current production levels.

A significant component of this project will be exploring downstream salinity options to allow greater use of Wellington Dam water for irrigated agriculture and other fit for purpose uses, decreasing the reliance on existing groundwater supplies.

"A dramatic expansion of Western Australia's irrigation capability is one answer to creating critical mass, maintaining quality, and becoming export-ready with the right product at the right time."

Midlands - groundwater and land assessment

Already producing a significant proportion of Western Australian fresh fruit and vegetables, and with large tracts of relatively inexpensive grazing land close to Perth, the Midlands region offers extensive opportunities for irrigated horticultural expansion.

In partnership with a range of local stakeholders, this project will undertake detailed groundwater investigation to determine the quantity and quality of water available, as well as identify suitable land to support growth in the region.

A comprehensive information package, outlining potential for development of an irrigation precinct, will also be delivered to assist in attracting investors to the region.

"To create a vision for irrigation in Western Australia we must look to the past and ask ourselves why we irrigate just 50,000 hectares."



Middle Gascoyne - Water Investigations

Investigating the scale and quality of the alluvial aquifers between Rocky Pool and the Kennedy Ranges, this project will open up new opportunities for horticulture, the grow-on beef industry and other innovative agri-businesses in the region.

The Middle Gascoyne project will confirm the quality, suitability and sustainability of water to support new horticultural and agricultural developments, as well as examine land tenure options to further support investment.

La Grange - West Canning groundwater project

This component of the Water for Food project will investigate and confirm the presence, reliability and availability of water from the Canning Basin - one of the largest groundwater systems in the State.

With the area having significant potential for higher value agricultural production and irrigation expansion, the project will also examine land tenure options to allow for large scale third party investment.



Water Information Conversion

Wide ranging hard copy hydrogeological information from priority irrigation areas will be digitally captured and made available online to private sector investors and growers – vastly reducing the need for expensive water investigations in areas where comprehensive data already exists.

Other benefits of having extensive water information available include:

- streamlining processes and fewer delays collecting data
- less invasive on the land with a reduction in the need to drill new bores
- reduction in lengthy monitoring periods and analysis
- reduction in development costs
- better planning for the design of road, rail and pipeline infrastructure



Bonaparte Plains: Ord East Kimberley Expansion

The Bonaparte Plains is a joint land and water investigation aimed at developing up to 30,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture in the loamy sands of the East Kimberley.

The project will undertake a program of groundwater investigations and detailed soil assessments, establish water and land availability, and develop tenure options for potential investors and infrastructure development.

