

Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen and Gumlu

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Bowen District Growers Assn Inc.

Project Number: HG11009

HG11009

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Summary

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) is a representative body for horticultural growers in the Whitsunday Region of North Queensland located 1200km from Brisbane. The region is the largest winter vegetable growing area in Australia, with an annual value of \$450 million.

The region has employed an Industry Development Officer (IDO), funded by Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) using voluntary contributions from industry (BGGA) and matched funds from the Australian Government.

This project HG11009 (Facilitating horticulture development in Bowen and Gumlu) facilitates through the employment of an IDO with the role assisting growers to access information, research and development outcomes and training opportunities that are relevant and of benefit to them. The role also supports efforts to build a strong and united industry in the region. The role provides a link between growers, industry stakeholders and Government.

The IDO project is managed by a Management Committee of local growers located in the Bowen Gumlu region. The IDO project has allowed for a more targeted approach to dealing with industry issues that effect the industry's profitability and sustainability.

The IDO has delivered successfully across all key output and outcome areas. Key areas required to be delivered upon by the completion of the IDO project include 80% of growers in the Bowen Gumlu region have participated in IDO activities, training/workshops/forums and that there is an increase in industry cohesiveness across a number of key projects and initiatives.

These outcomes required by the completion of the IDO project have been met with 94% of surveyed growers participating in training/workshops/forums and with 88.98% of surveyed growers receiving information through communication. The evaluation survey identified the need to update grower contact database, as some of the surveyed grower details have changed over the life of the project. There has also been an increase in the amount of projects within the region in which growers participate and collaborate across. These project areas and future identified project areas align with national priorities identified in the AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) and RRDP priorities.

The continued employment of an IDO is key to maintain current projects and initiatives within the region as well as state-wide and nationally. Continuation of this role into the future will allow for a cohesive, informed and skilled local horticultural industry. Without this role, initiatives, projects and programs would be very difficult to maintain in the region.

Keywords

BGGA- Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

FMS- Farm Management System

GVP- Gross Value Production

HAL- Horticulture Australia Limited

ICA- Interstate Certification Assurance

IDG- Industry Development Group

IDNA- Industry Development Needs Assessment

IDO- Industry Development Officer

IPM-Integrated Pest Management

MIW- Mackay Isaac Whitsunday

PIB- Peak Industry Body

QLD DAFF- Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

RRLD- Rural Research and Development Priorities

RWDO- Regional Workforce Development Officer

SIP- Strategic Investment Plan

Introduction

In 2011-12 Australian horticulture had a gross value of production of \$9.5 billion, ranking third behind the meat and grain industries.^{1,2} In Queensland, horticulture is our second largest primary industry, with an annual value of \$2 billion.^{3,4}

The Bowen Gumlu region is located in the North Queensland Dry Tropics and is the largest winter vegetable growing region in Australia, with an annual value of \$450 million. The horticulture industry locally is a large economic driver and employs 3200 skilled and unskilled employees.

The Bowen Gumlu region is located 1200km north of Brisbane and, due to its regional location, growers find it difficult to participate in government and industry initiatives. BGGA employs an IDO as part of project HG11009 facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen and Gumlu. Since the initiation of the IDO project (previous projects HG04016, MT07056, HG08020) in 2006, there has been a harmonized approach to dealing with grower issues. The role has allowed for effective two-way communication between growers, industry and government.

Since this time, there has been an upskilling of industry in the areas of industrial relations, farm management systems, fertigation, irrigation, business management, precision agriculture, market access, and workforce development to name a few.

The IDO project has allowed for a more coordinated, cohesive approach to dealing with industry issues, as well as providing a contact whereby local horticultural growers can source information.

More recently, the IDO applied for funding as part of the Queensland Government Horticulture Workforce Development Plan 2013-15⁵ for a full-time Regional Workforce Development Officer (RWDO) and was successful. This has allowed for the region to have an increased focus on workforce development. This has also resulted in a Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan being developed and adopted (Appendix 2). This was also a carryover action from previous IDO project HG08020.

The RWDO project has resulted in an increased education and attention given to horticulture in local schools. A direct result of project activities has seen the local high school applying to become an Agricultural Gateway School, which occurred in the first 12 months of the RWDO project.

A strategic plan has been in place since 1998, which has been updated by the IDO as part of the project. An Industry Development Needs Assessment (IDNA) has also been completed with the key goals below. The key goals for industry development have guided the activities of the IDO, except for specific association and agripolitical activities (which would fall under 5).

¹ <http://www.horticulture.com.au/>

² <http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/7503.0~2010-11~Main+Features~Summary>

³ <http://www.qff.org.au/farming-in-qld/horticulture/>

⁴ <http://www.growcom.com.au/about-us/the-queensland-horticulture-industry/>

⁵ http://www.growcom.com.au/_uploads/QldProdHortWDP.pdf

- 1. Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of the IDO**
- 2. Develop projects specific to the needs of the industry in this region and align with industry priorities**
- 3. Continue to work towards a more unified industry locally and further afield**
- 4. Be the first point of contact for all growers, government, industry and other stakeholders**
- 5. Be a strong and cohesive organisation representing growers and the industry**
- 6. Ability to communicate for all growers on major issues that affect the industry**

With a renewed focus on Northern Australia, the Bowen Gumlu region has the opportunity to build upon government policy to continue to develop horticulture regionally. Recent government inquiries including the Inquiries into Northern Australia⁶ and the Agriculture Competitiveness Green Paper⁷ have demonstrated a heavy focus on developing agriculture, with a particular focus on northern Australia. The Queensland Government Agricultural Strategy also has a plan to double agricultural production by 2040⁸. The location of Bowen and Gumlu with the renewed focus on Northern Australia, provides the opportunity for the region to utilize and build upon both State and Federal Government policy.

A recent Queensland Agricultural Values Assessment found that in the Bowen Gumlu region there is currently around 8,700ha used for horticulture, with a potential undeveloped area of 43,000-52,232ha of horticultural land that could be developed.⁹ This demonstrates the potential for future growth of horticulture in the region.

In the recent Green Paper titled Developing Northern Australia, Growcom used the Bowen Gumlu region as a case study for future developmental potential.¹⁰ Key areas identified in the submission included water availability, market access, infrastructure, biosecurity and labour access; areas which are already known to need further work to expand our industry. The use of the Bowen Gumlu region as a case study not only demonstrates the region has potential, but also shows that Queensland Peak Industry Body Growcom also recognises this fact.

The IDO also has played a vital role in supporting and driving our regional systems approach into an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA)-48 (Pre-harvest Treatment and Post-Harvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in the Bowen Gumlu Region). The IDO worked alongside Biosecurity Queensland in developing the operational procedure with ICA-48 being officially released in August 2013. This is a carryover action from a previous project, which the IDO collaborated on (VG06028 Alternative Fruit Fly Control and Market Access for Capsicums and Tomatoes). This project was commenced in 2007, when the chemicals dimethoate and fenthion were under review. The project was highly successful with

⁶ http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Joint/Northern_Australia/Inquiry_into_the_Development_of_Northern_Australia

⁷ <http://agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au/>

⁸ http://www.daff.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0016/81070/2320-qld-ag-strategy-v15.pdf

⁹ https://www.daff.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/75926/QALA-Ch08-MIW.pdf

¹⁰ <https://northernaustralia.dpmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/.../growcom.docx>

project results leading to our seasonally and regionally specific ICA. This was a huge win for local growers who contributed financially towards the project, who can now see the benefits of their proactive efforts. The IDO continues to work on this project, with local growers wanting to see ICA-48 used as an export option.

The horticulture industry still has ongoing issues to overcome to ensure long-term sustainability. With rising input and energy costs, our industry must be more efficient. This has also been identified in the IDNA completed as part of the project.

The presence of an IDO in our region is vital to continue to build upon already existing relationships, but also for developing new opportunities for growers in the Bowen Gumlu region to ultimately ensure their sustainability and profitability.

Without the employment of a full-time IDO it would be difficult for industry to maintain these initiatives, due to the high demand of their businesses. With almost a decade of time already put into building relationships through the employment of an IDO, these networks would not be fully utilized and this would result in a backwards step for the region.

Methodology

This project employed a fulltime IDO to facilitate the development of horticulture in the Bowen Gumlu region and deliver the project. Denise Kreymborg was in the IDO position from late 2011 until late 2012 with Sarah Simpson in the position from late 2012 until the end of the project.

The direction and priorities of the project were set by the project management committee. Committee members were Leanne Born, Jamie Jurgens and Carl Walker. The committee consulted with a Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Industry Development representative and industry partners.

The project activities were developed to deliver outputs and outcomes, which were set during the application phase of the project reflecting the IDNA. The IDNA was updated during the project to reflect industry needs with KPI's being adjusted to set a more targeted direction.

The activities conducted by the IDO were based annual work plans and were carried out to deliver on project KPI's.

KPI's have been reported for each activity, with the outputs and outcomes then identified followed by next steps. This has been the template of reporting used in the milestone reports across the life of the project and has been carried over to maintain consistency.

Outputs/Outcomes

1. Activity: IDNA Updated (see Appendix 1)

Output: Key Performance Indicators (KPI) in place, workplan in place, both assessed by Management Committee

Outcomes: Project direction improved and targeted.

Key Performance Indicators/Actions:

IDO to provide a broad spectrum of communication, information flow and industry development activities/roles including:

- Providing growers with access to business development opportunities across business management, farm management systems and best practice in processing and production systems
- Supporting growers in managing the key challenges and issues at the various levels - regional, state and national - to deliver outcomes for the long term sustainability of the industry
- Acting as the first point of contact and information base for growers, government (e.g QLD DAFF) and industry
- Developing projects, initiatives and programs for the sustainability of the horticulture industry at

a local, state-wide and national level as well as the local community (e.g. projects for improving market access and market development, business development, improved environmental management on farms and protecting the Great Barrier Reef, improved supply chains, mechanisation, setting best practice, skilling and training students, providing career pathways, providing linkages and developing relationships with those that promote healthy eating.

- Supporting efforts to build a strong and united industry and local community in the region
- Building on and creating networks and relationships throughout the industry, government and the local community
- Assisting growers to better access information, R&D outcomes and training opportunities that are of relevance and benefit to them
- Providing direction on local, state and federal government priorities for R&D and industry development for horticulture
- Seeking support for the industry in this region to further develop the horticulture industry across a broad range of key priorities

The updated IDNA required these outcomes to be met by the completion of the project:

- By 2014, an estimated 80% of growers in Bowen and Gumlu region will have attended workshops/training sessions listed in IDNA and undertaken improved on-farm practices
- By 2014, all growers in the Bowen and Gumlu region will have had the opportunity to be a part of the continued Reef Rescue Plan (now Horticulture Water Quality Grants), which aims to improve FMS and improve water quality practices on-farm in order to reduce run-off to the Great Barrier Reef
- By 2014, all growers have access to information flow through the IDO program delivering information on R&D outcomes, Pest & Disease issues, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Farm Management Systems
- By 2014, there will be increased industry cohesiveness with a number of key projects and initiatives developed to support greater collaboration for a more sustainable future
- By 2014, an estimated 80% of growers in the region will have taken part in industry development activities
- By 2014, there will be an increase in grower diversification, the development of niche products and value-add opportunities

The IDNA also identified areas of need in which project work needed to focus. This is contained under Activity 5: The IDO will initiate collaborative projects and/or develop projects to support the horticultural industry locally and nationally.

The actions to be completed by the end of 2014, as stated in the IDNA, have been met and are addressed in the discussion section of this report.

Next Steps: Next steps are now post project. Continue to update IDNA as future projects progress and determine whether direction of projects requires adjusting. Adjust the Industry Strategic Plan as project progresses.

Through consultation with growers there is a need to invest in the development of a strategic long-term plan for the Bowen Gumlu region to build upon increased Government focus on developing agriculture in Northern Australia.

The information obtained in the IDNA also aligns with national priorities found in the AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) and RRDP. Key priority areas identified nationally include consumer alignment, market and value chain development, farm productivity, resource use, biosecurity, climate change/variability have also been identified as regional priorities.

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- 2. Activity:** The IDO will attend a number of industry conferences, workshops, seminars, forums and meetings to provide information flow on industry issues that affect not only the Bowen Gumlu region but at a State and National level build industry networks that provide vital industry direction and support for growers and their needs.

Output: IDO to attend meetings/seminars/forums, including:

<p>Queensland Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry</p> <p>Biosecurity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICA-38, ICA-47, ICA-48, Chemical Use, Office of Horticulture Market Access Application, Viruses <p>Agri-Science</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precision Agriculture, Area-wide Management, Pest & Disease Workshops, Biodegradable Mulch, Soil Health etc. <p>Industry Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross Margins, Cost Analysis <p>Workforce Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> QLD Workforce Development Plan, RWDO project <p>Plant Industries, Food & Trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colour Your Winter project <p>Queensland Department of State Infrastructure and Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food & Agri-tourism project, Regional Food Hub, Regional Food Council <p>Federal Department of Industry- Business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce Development 	<p>Queensland Trade and Investment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BGGA ICA-48 protocol, market access <p>Federal Attorney-General's Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chemical Security Risk Assessment Unit <p>Queensland Department of Education, Training and Employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognised Prior Learning, Training, schools <p>Queensland TAFE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeships <p>Training QLD</p> <p>Rural Skills Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training, Workforce <p>Agri-Food Skills Australia</p> <p>YouthInvest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Engagement <p>Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traineeships <p>Horticulture Australia Limited (now HIA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDO project as well as various R&D projects, Industry Development Forums 	<p>Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mining</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Meters, Land Management <p>Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration, VISA's <p>Workplace Health and Safety Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest Trail Audit, general Workplace Health & Safety <p>Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Issues <p>Horticulture Industry Development Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry Breakfast, Farm Tour and BGGA Gala Dinner <p>IDO meet with these Peak Industry Bodies, covering various topics and projects:</p> <p>AUSVEG</p> <p>Growcom</p> <p>BFVG</p> <p>MDFVGA</p> <p>AMIA</p> <p>Melons Australia</p> <p>Vegetables WA</p>
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APVMA Permits, Chemical Use Issues	NQ Dry Tropics <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reef Rescue, Horticulture Water Quality Grants, Carbon Farming, Horticulture Water Quality Grants Steering Committee	BBIFMAC <ul style="list-style-type: none">Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators project and Steering Committee		
Regional Development Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Planning	GBRMPA- Reef Guardian Farmers Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">Reef Guardian Farmers project, Reef Guardian Schools Future Leaders Eco Challenge	Plant Health Australia <ul style="list-style-type: none">National Fruit Fly Strategy Committee		
Brisbane Produce Markets <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colour Your Winter, Fresh Source Magazine		Bowen Business Chamber <ul style="list-style-type: none">Workforce and Employment		
growNorth <ul style="list-style-type: none">Regional Planning		Whitsunday Marketing and Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">Food and Agri-tourism project, Workforce Development, Small Business Management	Whitsunday Regional Council <ul style="list-style-type: none">Disaster Management Group, Regional Planning, Waste Management	
Food Innovation Australia Ltd <ul style="list-style-type: none">Value adding and innovation				
<table><tr><td>BGGA Partnership Program Businesses Brisbane Markets Visy Boxes & More Terranova Seeds Pty Ltd Monsanto Australia Limited J H Leavy & Co GNL Produce South Pacific Seeds AustSafe Super Proserpine Machinery Service Crockers Fuel & Oil Lefroy Valley Lindsay Australia Bowen Farmers Transport Prospect Agriculture Sydney Markets Maf- Oceania & Co Orora Group Steritech Elders A.E Chaves</td><td>Shamrock Marketing Henderson Seed Group/Clause Westpac Signet Vanderfield RTM Engineering Pty Ltd D & V Ashton Mirthill Pty Ltd Refrigerate Technologies Whitsunday Ag Services Bytewise IT Solutions Bowen Home Hardware Bowen Quality Seedlings Bartec Rural Services Bootooloo Produce Queensland Seedlings Maltby Engineering Karen Morton Insurance Cons Bowen Independent Dave Clark Construction Bowen Crop Monitoring</td></tr></table>			BGGA Partnership Program Businesses Brisbane Markets Visy Boxes & More Terranova Seeds Pty Ltd Monsanto Australia Limited J H Leavy & Co GNL Produce South Pacific Seeds AustSafe Super Proserpine Machinery Service Crockers Fuel & Oil Lefroy Valley Lindsay Australia Bowen Farmers Transport Prospect Agriculture Sydney Markets Maf- Oceania & Co Orora Group Steritech Elders A.E Chaves	Shamrock Marketing Henderson Seed Group/Clause Westpac Signet Vanderfield RTM Engineering Pty Ltd D & V Ashton Mirthill Pty Ltd Refrigerate Technologies Whitsunday Ag Services Bytewise IT Solutions Bowen Home Hardware Bowen Quality Seedlings Bartec Rural Services Bootooloo Produce Queensland Seedlings Maltby Engineering Karen Morton Insurance Cons Bowen Independent Dave Clark Construction Bowen Crop Monitoring
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The IDO continues to build upon networks and relationships established during the current and past projects. The established networks allow for cohesive coordination of projects and programs allowing for a sustainable long-term industry.

<p>Conferences attended:</p> <p>AUSVEG- National Vegetable Convention -2012/13/14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDO nominated for the Rising Star in 2014 <p>Produce Marketing Association, Fresh Connections Conference- 2012/13</p> <p>International Horticultural Congress -2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAL Industry Development Forum -2012/2014 	<p>IDO is also a committee member on various groups which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horticulture Water Quality Grants Advisory Committee (NQ Dry Tropics) • National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee (Plant Health Australia) • Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators Committee (BBIFMAC) • Reef Guardian Farmers Steering Group Committee (GBRMPA) • Mackay, Isaac and Whitsunday (MIW) Food and Agritourism project (QLD DSDIP) • RWDO Steering Working Group Committee (BGGA) • MIW Food and Agri-Tourism Project Regional Planning Committee (QLD DSDIP) • Variable Rate Project Steering Committee (QLD DAFF) 	<p>Training:</p> <p>The IDO completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing Leaders -2013 • Horticulture Next Generation Training- 2012/13 • BSBWOR401A:Establish effective workplace relationships -2013 • First Aid Training -2014 <p>The IDO also attended various relevant workshops, forums, seminars and field days to stay in-touch with industry related knowledge.</p>
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Annual Industry Breakfast and Farm Tour 2014. Participants include members of our 2014 Partnership Program, Local Growers and members of the Horticulture Industry Development Group.

Outcomes:

As a result of attending workshops/seminars/conferences/meetings the IDO delivered information to industry in a number of key areas and was able to provide input to project steering committees from the perspective of horticultural businesses in the Bowen Gumlu region.

This has resulted in growers, industry stakeholders and government being made aware of current and emerging issues for the horticulture industry in Bowen Gumlu.

Next Steps:

The IDO will continue to attend and facilitate appropriate workshops/seminars/conferences/meetings to maintain delivery of information.

The IDO will maintain communication with industry stakeholders and build upon already established networks to focus on the delivery of industry priorities.

3. Activity: Deliver, Facilitate and Coordinate Workshops, Seminars, Training and Forums

Output:

Grower workshops, seminars, training and forums conducted in the areas:

Biosecurity	Market Access	Biodegradable Mulch Film	Soil Health	Carbon Farming
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Reef Rescue/Horticulture Water Quality Grants	Industrial Relations	Immigration	Leadership	Pest & Disease Management
Energy Efficiency	HR Essentials	Succession Planning	Recognition of Prior Learning across a range of areas	Fertigation/Irrigation
Precision Agriculture	Area-wide Management	Food Safety	Workforce Planning*	Agri-Tourism

*There was also a Department of Education, Training and Employment funded TAFE Workforce Planning and Development Skills set which saw 13 growers go through training, with seven completing all assessments and receiving an accredited skills set package.

Schools farm visits, forum and projects delivered in collaboration with BGGA RWDO:

Annual Events - establish an annual cycle of industry and careers promotion to local High School Students and Teachers which would include: sharing of resources, guest speakers, farm tours, poster competitions and other relevant activities	Teacher Tours - showcase the local horticultural industry to teachers at local high school. This was used to educate and inform teachers of the variety of careers that are available in the industry	Seed, Grow & Show - engaged year 6 students across two large primary schools. This was used to educate students of the process from sowing a seed, to picking produce and entering in local show
Work Inspirations - facilitate work experience opportunities including Work Inspirations and Greener Futures projects	Industry Career Brochure + Career Display - career brochure and display unit were developed and utilized at variety of events to showcase career opportunities available in the industry	Agribusiness Gateway Schools - Bowen State High School submitted an application to become an Agribusiness Gateway School



Carbon Farming Workshop

Work Inspirations students during their industry tour



Growers in the Bowen Gumlu region attended various workshops across the three years of the project.

The project aimed to also engage groups such as consultants so as to improve the reach of the project, by providing the information to consultants who then give it to growers.

Bowen Schools have been engaged in the horticultural industry through the BGGGA RWDO role.

Outcomes: The IDO will continue to deliver workshops/forums and field days in key areas defined in the project evaluation, which include:

The IDO will also facilitate the delivery of workshops in the above areas, but will also focus on areas related to energy efficiency, as this has been identified and will continue to be an area of focus into the future.

BGGGA are participating in an Agri-Tourism project, MIW Food and Agritourism Development Project, which will provide growers with the opportunity to access Business Development training and opportunities in this space (Wright 2014). The BGGGA Business Development and Marketing Plan Synopsis completed at the end of 2012, has also been utilized by the MIW Food and Agri-tourism project to develop key actions (Millar 2012).

The engagement with schools has resulted in a better understanding of the local horticultural industry and the career opportunities it presents. As a direct result of this initiative, Bowen State High School has applied to be an Agricultural Gateway School.

The IDO delivered and will continue to deliver workshops, seminars, training and forums to the RRDL and AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) priority areas.

Next Step: Continue to deliver across the key areas already identified as regional and national RRDL and AUSVEG SIP priority areas for training, workshops and forums. Continue to build upon relationship established with local schools.

4. Activity: Information and communication flow - communication to/for the industry on various regional/national issues

Output: One-on-one meetings and consultations with growers and industry via mail, fax, email, newsletter (covered in more detail under 6. Activity) and phone. Meetings held on a regular basis in order to gain information to deliver to growers and industry. See Appendix 3- Communication for articles related to project activities.

Outcome: This has resulted in the IDO being the first point of contact for communication/information flow for local growers but also industry and government.

This has resulted in the growers being up to date with industry communications and priorities as well as emerging issues.

Next Steps: Continue to deliver and build upon communication methods to ensure that the target audience is being reached and meeting industry requirements.

Continue to deliver information to ensure that industry needs are being met. AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) noted specifically the vegetable industry required 'ongoing capabilities in the areas of communication, knowledge management and industry analysis.'¹¹

To meet this need, continuation of the IDO role in the Bowen Gumlu region is essential in meeting this specific industry requirement. This also has implications at a national level, with the transfer of knowledge, industry priorities and emerging issues being able to be communicated broadly.

5. Activity: The IDO will initiate collaborative projects and/or develop projects to support the horticulture industry locally and nationally

Output: The IDO continues to be a collaborator on the following projects:

Alternative Fruit Fly Management and Market Access project for Capsicums and Tomato (QLD	Dimethoate and Fenthion Efficacy Trials (QLD DAFF)	Development of a test to quantify irradiation damage in fruit flies (QLD DAFF)
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¹¹ http://ausveg.businesscatalyst.com/FINAL_Strategic%20Investment%20Plan%20-%203%2005%202012.pdf

DAFF, BGGA)		
Alternative Fruit Fly Management and Market Access project for Eggplant (QLD DAFF)	Integrated Pest Management Strategy for whitefly (QLD DAFF)	Implementing silverleaf whitefly IPM and commercialization parasitoids (QLD DAFF)
MT09068- Comparison of biodegradable mulch products to polyethylene in irrigated vegetable, tomato and melon crops (QLD DAFF)	VG09038 – Vegetable soil health systems for overcoming limitations causing soil borne diseases (QLD DAFF)	VG09041 - Environmental effects of vegetable production on 'sensitive' waterways (QLD DAFF)
Controlled traffic farming for production efficiencies and soil health in tropical vegetables (QLD DAFF)	Reef Rescue (NQ Dry Tropics + Growcom)	Reef Guardian Farmers program (GBRMPA)
	Horticulture Water Quality Grants (NQ Dry Tropics + Growcom)	
Strategic Marketing Plan across AgriTourism in Bowen and Gumlu (QLD DSDIP)	VT13003 - Improving productivity of fruiting solanaceous crops through area wide management of insect vectored viruses in Bowen (QLD DAFF, BGGA, Industry)	Management of insecticide resistance in the green peach aphid in vegetable (University of Melbourne)
Women In Horticulture (Growcom)	Adoption of variable rate technology in Queensland's intensive vegetable production systems (QLD DAFF)	Energy Efficiency Grants for Australia Irrigators Project (BBIFMAC)
Regional Workforce Development Officer (QLD DAFF, BGGA)	Seed, Grow & Show- (BGGA & QLD DAFF)	Developing capsicum breeding lines with resistance to Pepper Yellow Leaf Curl Virus – pre-empting a biosecurity threat (QLD DAFF)
Colour Your Winter (QLD DAFF, BGGA, BFVG, Brisbane Markets)	A Systems approach to adoption of permanent bed systems for tropical/subtropical vegetable production (QLD DAFF)	VG13113- Evaluation of automation and robotics innovations: developing next generation vegetable production systems (QLD DAFF)
ICA-48 Pre-harvest Treatment and Postharvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in the Bowen Gumlu (QLD DAFF, BGGA)		

The IDNA also demonstrated that there is a need for more activities in the areas of:

- Pest & Disease (powdery mildew, aphids, systems approach for fruit fly or IPM)
- Supply Chain Locally (produce hub/centre)
- Export Market Development
- Strategic Marketing Plan for local branding initiative
- Improve on farm management systems (environmental, reef plan and efficiencies across farm)
- Up skill on farm workers
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships in Horticulture Production Development
- Develop best practice across industry
- Workforce Development (attraction, retention and skilling) and Career Pathways (schools programs and marketing programs)
- Education of consumers (production, health benefits and general marketing)
- Value add and diversification on farm

Some of these areas are addressed by project funded by HIA Ltd using the national vegetable levy and project information is communicated to Bowen Gumlu growers so that they are aware of national vegetable projects.

Outcomes: As a result of these activities to date, growers are now involved in projects locally, state-wide and nationally.

The IDO collaborates on a range of projects that meet AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) and RRDP priority areas.

Next Step: The IDO will continue to deliver and collaborate on projects and outcomes for sustainable, cohesive industry. The IDO will deliver upon and initiate projects identified in the IDNA and the evaluation survey and continue to collaborate on projects that meet national industry strategic priorities.

-
- 6. Activity:** Industry newsletter, industry wide communication (good press), general publications, website management

Output: BGGA newsletter with industry development content distributed monthly for the first two years of project and bi-monthly for the third year. Emails were sent out to growers on a regular basis depending on urgency of information (e.g if this was an urgent industry issue would be sent out straight away via email, rather than waiting for next newsletter). The newsletter includes IDO updates, training opportunities, study tours offered by AUSVEG, R&D information, minor use permits, production information, market access information, pest and disease information and workforce information (example newsletters contained in Appendix 3- Communication). Articles and information of industry relevance were provided to local paper the Bowen Independent for their monthly agricultural section, the Rural Leader. Quarterly articles were also written for the Brisbane Markets Fresh Source magazine to engage with industry broadly. IDO also provides content to BGGA website that is related to R&D.

Outcome: As a result of the IDO there is good information flow between growers, industry and local community.

This has resulted in growers being aware and up to date with current and emerging industry practices through workshops, training, forums and communication.

Next Steps: The IDO will continue to deliver on actions and activities on a regular basis. We will continue to assess communication with plans to further utilize and update the current e-newsletter format and BGGA website.

7. Activity: Project evaluation process complete.

Output: Electronic survey distributed to all growers, with survey results compiled and contained in the evaluation section of the report.

Outcomes: Grower's feedback to guide future project priorities and activities. Management Committee and Financial Analysis report also completed and provided in the project evaluation, as additional evidence. Project evaluation results analyzed further in the Discussion section of the report.

Next Steps: IDO to continue to conduct regular evaluation of the project.

Evaluation and Discussion

Evaluation Section includes:

- IDO Project Evaluation Survey Results
- BGGG Management Committee Report
- Financial Analysis of HIA Project: HG11009

The Evaluation is then followed by a Discussion section.

IDO Project Evaluation Survey Results

The IDO Evaluation survey was distributed to growers in Bowen Gumlu as an electronic survey, using Survey Monkey distributed November 2014. The survey received a 33% return rate.

The survey covered a range of questions, evaluating the project to determine future directions.

RESULTS SUMMARY:

The survey contained 10 questions covering the project scope. Responses were recorded with some questions containing a comments section. Responses are contained in the following results summary.

All the growers responded to the first survey question '*Do you see a value in having an IDO in the region?*' All respondents answered this question with a 'Yes,' indicating that they all see value in having an IDO in the region.

Of the grower's surveyed, 94% of growers indicated that either they had or someone in their business had participated in workshops, training or seminars facilitated by the IDO (see *Figure 1: Growers Participation*).



Figure 1: Grower Participation

Growers were surveyed on IDO project communication, providing a rating on the usefulness of information. Of the results, 55% of surveyed indicated the information was excellent and the remaining 45% as good. It should be noted that an incomplete survey was also submitted via paper survey. Due to this, comments have been included, however, raw data could not be fed into the electronic survey. This survey indicated that they would like to see more regular updates and meeting minutes. It was also

found that their contact details had not been updated, therefore they had not been receiving updates. Steps will be taken to ensure all grower contact details are correct and updated in 2015.

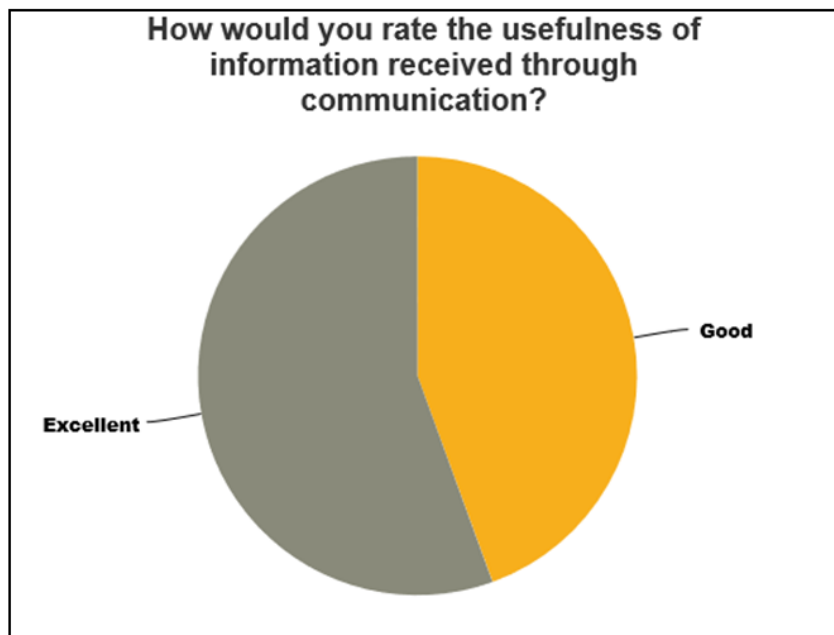


Figure 2: Communication

Growers were surveyed on key areas to determine if the majority of growers also agreed that these were seen as high priority areas for the industry.

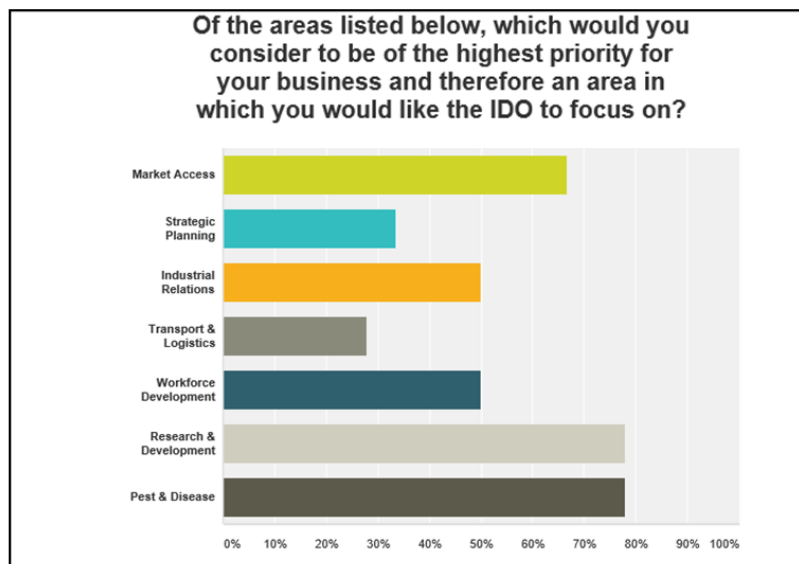


Figure 3: Priorities

Of the areas surveyed, Pest & Disease, Research and Development and Market Access were ranked as highest amongst growers, followed by Workforce Development and Industrial Relations.

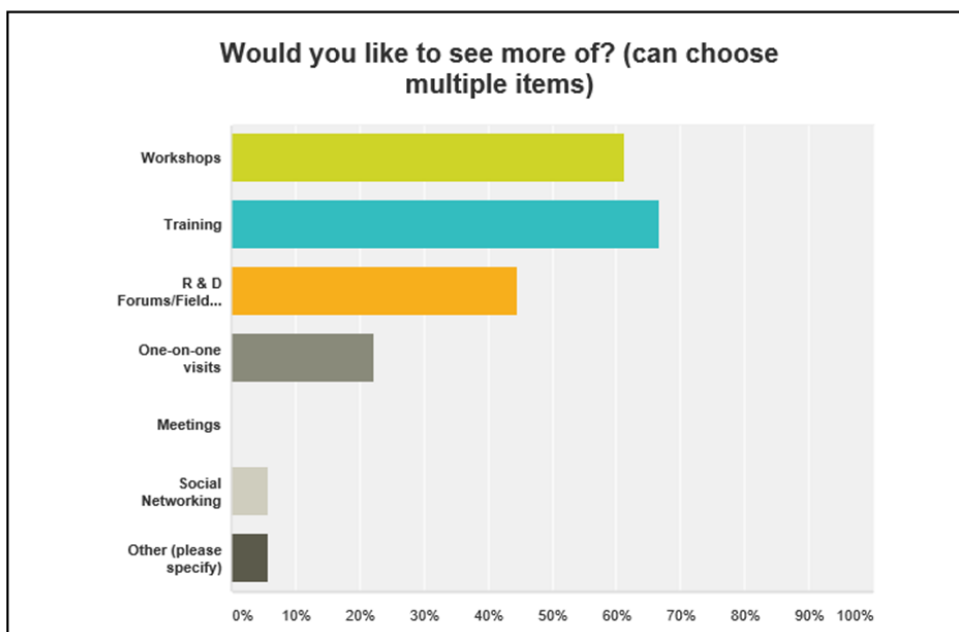


Figure 4: Area's of focus

Growers were also surveyed on areas in which they would like to see more events organised. The results indicate that growers would like to see more training in the region with 66.7% indicating this, followed by workshops with 61.1% and forums & field days accounting for 44.4%. Growers also indicated that they would like to see more one-on-one visits and more social networking. In the 'other' response section of survey, a grower commented that they would like to see 'more growers at meetings.'

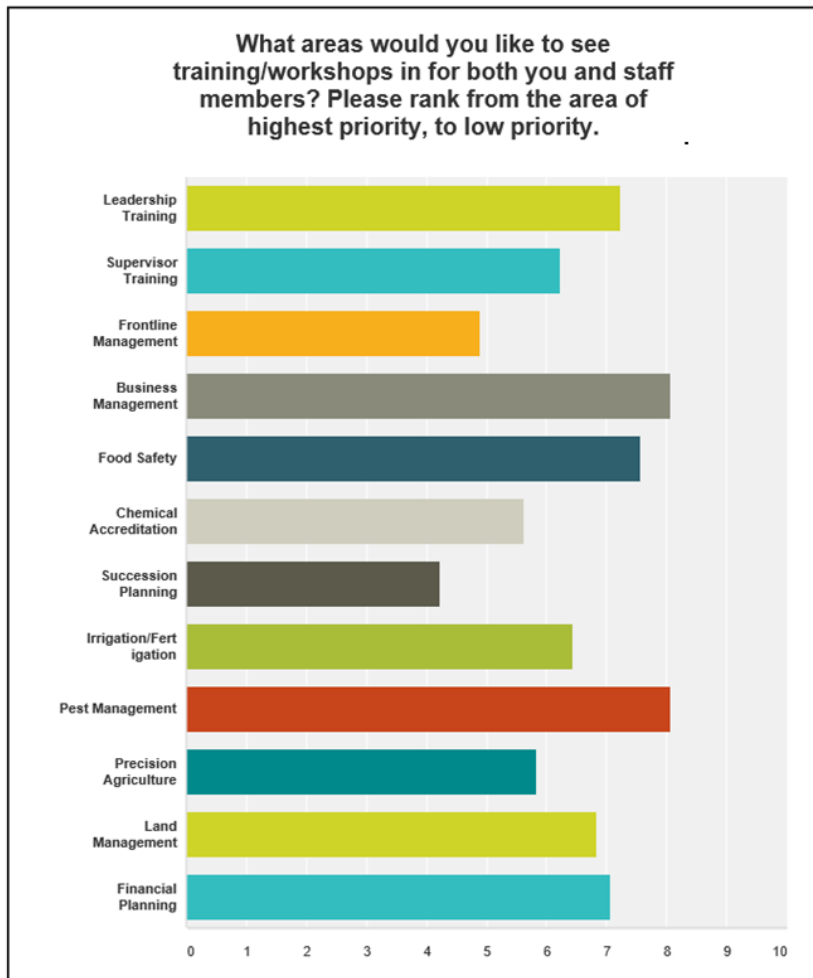


Figure 5: Training/Workshops

The above question was used to determine grower feedback on training/workshops that they see as a high priority for their business. Pest Management and Business Management were the two highest ranked across all growers. This was followed by Food Safety, Leadership Training, Financial Planning and Land Management.

At the end of the survey, growers were asked to indicate if they were not receiving information via communication. Of survey, 88.89% indicated they were receiving information, with 11.11% indicating they were not. The surveyed 11.11% will be followed up to update their contact details.

Growers were also able to leave an optional comment at the end of the survey, to provide further feedback in relation to the project. Five responses were received which include:

- Valuable resource for members
- The IDO position is a critical support role for the local horticulture industry
- More social networking amongst growers as well as more grower input.
- Very worthwhile project

- Having an IDO in the district has been a great benefit, farmers have a busy and demanding life and we need the help of an IDO to keep us informed with everything that is going on in the industry.

Growers were also questioned on whether there are any areas that are not being covered in communication methods that they would like to see covered, this was asked to determine any gaps in utilized methods of communication. Only one grower responded with 'Perhaps update BGGGA website and push the growers to access the website and include the info in the printed newsletters, also have a higher facebook/linkedin profile'. The IDO has identified that the website needs to be more fully utilized and updated with an increased presence on social media. This is an area of communication which needs to be explored as a method to engage growers in the region.

Growers were also asked, *Are there any areas of research or project ideas which you would like the IDO project to work on or investigate?* Responses include:

- New diseases
- Profit Sharing- Growers to Retailer Facilitate market visits for members and interaction with retailers
- Market access research should be the highest priority, both domestic and international.
- Corn Picking
- Plant breeding possibilities. Local varieties

These areas will help to further guide BGGGA in the future when guiding future research projects. This will also assist in determining projects growers would benefit from.

Conclusion:

Survey results contained positive feedback in relation to the project and provided some areas in which the project can improve and focus further. All surveyed growers indicated that they see a value in having an IDO in the region, with 94% of growers participating in workshops/training. Communication is an area in which we will focus our efforts to ensure that we are reaching all growers and that contact database is updated. Growers also provided valuable information in relation to the workshops/training required into the future. Research and development project ideas provided by growers will be investigated further by the IDO. Grower comments at the end of the survey also indicate that the role of the IDO is valued in the region providing an important resource for growers.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Management Committee Report



Bowen Gumlu Growers Management Committee consists of Carl Walker, Jamie Jurgens and Leanne Born. The management committee have been in place for the duration of the current project HG11009.

BGGA are being approached more than ever to be a collaborator on project. BGGA sees the importance for research and development and maintain the sustainability and profitability of the industry. With the Government move towards outsourcing, BGGA sees the role of industry association to provide support and collaboration on projects as a vital mechanism to maintain research within the horticultural industry.

BGGA collaborates across a range of projects, with the IDO facilitating and managing our involvement. The IDO is vital in maintaining BGGA's involvement in projects, as this would not be possible to adequately engage in project requirements without an IDO. This would result in projects into the future not being supported because there is simply no staff able to facilitate involvement.

The transition from previous IDO Denise Kreymborg, to current IDO Sarah Simpson has been a smooth transition. Late in 2012, Sarah took on the role with support from Denise and had an official change over. Denise has continued to be involved with BGGA and has been a valuable mentor for Sarah over the past two years of her employment. This smooth transition demonstrates the commitment of BGGA to the IDO role.

Some key areas in which the IDO has been involved on the project period include:

- The regionally and seasonally specific ICA-48 Pre-harvest Treatment and Post Harvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in the Bowen Gumlu Region.
 - ICA-48 came from regionally and seasonally specific systems approach
 - Systems approach established from this regional project- VG06028 Alternative Fruit Fly Control and Market Access for Capsicums and Tomatoes
 - The project was initiated in 2007, as a proactive step by industry to prepare for the removal of dimethoate and fenthion
 - This project was funded by HIA, Queensland DAFF and local growers
 - IDO is still working with Biosecurity with Queensland DAFF on an OHMA application to take ICA-48 to the next step, export.
- Disaster Management. April 2014 saw the region hit by Cyclone Ita. IDO worked alongside Growcom and Queensland DAFF in surveying growers to assess damage. This demonstrated the importance of having someone on the ground to assess and coordinate flow of information, in a time where this is vital. It also demonstrated IDO capacity to work across industry, linking with PIB's and government.
- In late 2013, the IDO applied for funding to put on a fulltime Regional Workforce Development Officer, as part of the Queensland Workforce Development Plan 2013-15. This has resulted in the region seeing targeted workforce development, as well as engagement with schools. These were key actions identified by local growers as key priority areas. This has resulted in the

community having a better understanding of the horticultural industry as well as educating students about the career opportunities locally.

- Facilitating stakeholder events such as annual Industry and Breakfast and Farm Tour for members of the BGGGA Partnership Program. In 2014, this involved members of the Industry Development Group (IDG), which includes industry leaders and successful horticulture business people. The group was formed by the QLD Government Minister John McVeigh to ensure a strong business approach to growing the horticulture industry. This was a great opportunity for the region to showcase the local industry as well as research projects happening in the region. This was coordinated with the IDO who worked with Queensland DAFF staff to enable this event.
- The IDO was also able to link in with Biosecurity and PIB's to provide support and information to growers in relation to the Cucumber Green Mottle Mosaic Virus, linking in particularly with Growcom to create a fact-sheet resource for growers and then in distributing the information.

The IDO continues to work across a range of key industry stakeholders. BGGGA have recently engaged with Growcom to create an advisory committee of key growing regions across Queensland to provide a mechanism for regions to feed information in relation to issues, policy, projects and initiatives.

The IDO maintains relationships and contact with a range of industry stakeholders, from local growers, industry stakeholders and government. This is a vital aspect of the role, allowing for regional issues to be raised.

The IDO completed the National Vegetable Industry Growing Leader program in 2013. It was identified by the Management Committee that a program such as this was important in developing the IDO skills and networks. This then lead to the IDO being nominated for the AUSVEG Rising Star of the Year in 2014.

The management committee do not believe that the region would be able to be involved with many of the current R&D programs or initiatives without the employment of an IDO. Without the IDO, many of the relationships and networks built by having an IDO in the region would not be utilised for the region's benefit.

Financial Analysis of HIA Ltd Project: HG11009

TJ Mullins, Department Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry.

Data Source:

Commodity price information was sourced from “Prices and throughputs for the Brisbane Markets 2002-2013” by Market Information Services, Brisbane Market.

2006 production estimates for the Whitsunday Shire, by S Heisswolf, DAFF.

2013 production estimates for the Whitsunday Shire, by TJ Mullins & Dr S Subramaniam, DAFF.

Methodology:

The HIA Ltd project commenced in 2005, 2006 is used as the base line. 2013 is used as the comparison.

The 11 most commonly grown commodity lines were selected for the comparison.

Area grown (ha's) and production data (kgs/ha) across the 11 major vegetable commodity lines were used with the 2006 data as a base point and 2013 as the end point.

The 5 year average price \$/unit (as per Market Information Services – Brisbane Market) 2002-2006 was used as the base point and the 5 year average 2008-2013 as the end point.

Gross value of production (GVP) for 2006 was indexed at 3% per annum to give a value in 2014 dollars.

Results:

GVP

Adjusted GVP for horticulture in Bowen Gumlu region indicated that over the life of the project the \$ value of product had increased by \$177.42M.

In previous IDO project, HG08020 saw an increase in GVP from \$259.06 million to \$318.44 million in 2010. This showed an increase in GVP over the project's life of \$59.38 million.

This trend has continued with a GVP in 2013 of \$436.48 million recorded. This demonstrates an increase of \$118.04 million over the current project. This has been graphed in *Figure 6: Indexed GVP for BGGA IDO role* which demonstrates the increasing trend.

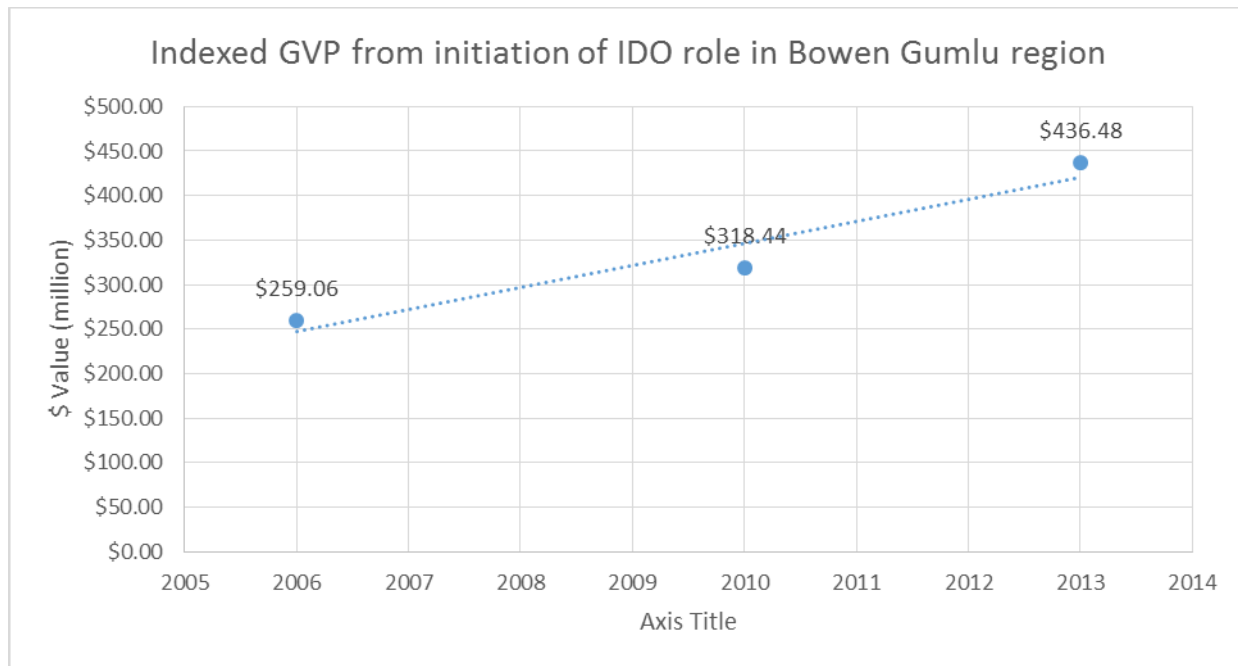


Figure 6: Indexed GVP for BGGG IDO role

Major activities undertaken by the IDO role on behalf of Industry in 2013/14 and 2014/15.

- Lead the local Industry response to the Federal Government's "Green Paper"
- Coordination between Research, Local growers and government in the development of the ICA 48 protocol for the interstate movement of produce
- Manage, champion and mentor the Regional Workplace Development Officer position
- Coordinate a significant Stakeholder event in June 2014 involving growers, government, industry service suppliers, industry bodies including HIA Ltd and GROWCOM.
- Member of the National Fruit Fly Strategy group
- Coordinate response to recurrent natural disasters.
- Coordinate with NRM groups in regard to Reef health programs, example:
 - Reef Plan
 - Reef guardian
 - Reef rescue
- Coordinate with partners in joint R & D projects, example:
 - Improving productivity of fruiting solanaceous crops through area wide management of

insect vectored viruses in Bowen.

- Tomato Yellow Leaf curl Virus project.
- Fruit Fly area freedom work which lead to ICA 48.
- Responsible for building and maintaining effective networks across stakeholders.

Report completed on 13/11/2014

Discussion

The project HG11009 (following on from project HG04016, MT07056, HG08020) Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen and Gumlu, assists growers to better access information, research and development outcomes and training opportunities that are of relevance and benefit to them and to support efforts to build a strong and united industry in the region.

The outcomes required at the completion of the project or ongoing related projects (contained in IDNA) include:

- By 2014 an estimated 80% of growers in Bowen and Gumlu region will have attended workshops/training sessions listed in IDNA and undertaken improved on-farm practices
- By 2014 all growers in the Bowen and Gumlu region will have had the opportunity to be a part of the continued Reef Rescue Plan (now Horticulture Water Quality Grants) which aims to improve FMS and improved water quality practices on-farm in order to reduce runoff to the Great Barrier Reef
- By 2014 all growers have access to information flow through the IDO program delivering information on Research and Development outcomes, Pest & Disease issues, Integrated Pest Management and Farm Management Systems
- By 2014 there will be an increase in industry cohesiveness with a number of key projects and initiatives developed to support greater collaboration for a more sustainable future
- By 2014 an estimated 80% of growers in the region will have taken part in industry development activities
- By 2014 there will be an increase in grower's diversification, the development of niche products and value add opportunities

The outcomes required by the completion of HG11009 have been met. Over the past three years of the project, an estimated 80% of growers would have attended workshops/training sessions facilitated by the IDO. Of the surveyed growers, only one grower answered 'no' to attending any workshops/training facilitated by the IDO project. The evaluation survey demonstrated that 94% of surveyed growers had attended workshops, training or seminars facilitated by the IDO.

Under the previous Reef Rescue funding (2008-2013), 38 growers in the Bowen Gumlu region accessed funding to implement on farm management systems for improved water quality outcome to the Great Barrier Reef. With the continuation of the program under the new banner Horticulture Water Quality Grants, seven growers have been funded with more currently being assessed. The second round of Reef funding opened in 2013 and will be available for funding until 2016 for all growers to apply for.

All growers in Bowen and Gumlu have been provided information through via email, newsletters, fax, one-on-one visits, phone calls, meetings/forums/workshops and media communication in the general press. Contact database will be updated in 2015 to ensure all growers are receiving communication, this is an action based on evaluation survey feedback. BGGGA website to also be updated.

The IDO works and collaborates across a range of projects and programs. Regional examples include improving productivity of fruiting solanaceous crops through area wide management of insect vectored viruses in Bowen and ICA-48 (Pre-harvest Treatment and Postharvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in Bowen Gumlu). State-wide example include the RWDO Project and Adoption of variable rate technology in Queensland's intensive vegetable production systems. At a National level, the IDO is involved with committees such as the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee and has graduated from the Growing Leaders 2013 National Vegetable Industry Leadership Program. The collaborative approach across a range of projects demonstrates the IDO's ability to work towards a cohesive and sustainable future for the industry.

By 2014, an estimated 80% of growers in the region will have taken part in industry development activities. This has been met with evaluation survey results showing of the surveyed growers 94% had attended workshops/training/seminars and that 88.89% of growers have received communication as part of the IDO project.

BGGA have also been working with the Queensland DSDIP and other relevant industry stakeholders, in the development of the MIW Food and Agritourism Project. This project provides local growers with the opportunity to engage and develop within the Agritourism space. Included within the project is Food and Agritourism Business Development training, Food and Agritourism Educational Tours, Regional Food Master Classes and the establishment of the Regional Food Council. This project will provide the opportunity for growers to participate in training and further understand the opportunities present in the Agritourism space. It is hoped that this will provide growers with more confidence to invest in this area and diversify further into value added products.

The outcomes required by the end of 2014 have been met.

The project goals set in the IDNA also include:

1. Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of IDO
2. Develop projects specific to the needs of the industry in this region and align with industry priorities
3. Continue to work towards a more unified industry locally and further afield
4. Be the first point of contact for all growers, government, industry and other stakeholders
5. To be a strong and cohesive organization representing growers and the industry
6. Ability to communicate for all growers on major issues that affect the industry

These goals have been met by the IDO project and will be continued to be built upon, however all rely on the first goal, the continued employment of an IDO. The region has identified that without an IDO they would not be able to be able to participate in project or initiatives at the level they do currently without the employment of an IDO. Without the first goal being met, underlying goals would not be fulfilled.

A SWOT analysis has also been completed for the project and can be found in the Industry Development Needs Assessment, Industry Strategic Plan (Appendix 1).

The IDO project has key learning and implications that can be used for the Australian Horticulture Industry. The project has demonstrated that industry can champion and manage their own industry development and direction. The Bowen Gumlu region has fostered the role over a period close to a decade, which has allowed for targeted action on identified regional and national priorities. This has been demonstrated through multiple projects.

The IDO project demonstrates the regional capacity to work across projects and initiatives that are both state wide and national. This shows that whilst this is a regional project, project and research learnings can be applied to other regions. The financial analysis of the project has also shown that since the IDO project's inception in 2006, the gross value of production increased from \$259.06 million in 2006 to \$436.48 million in 2013, an increase of \$177.42 million, demonstrating the financial benefit of having an IDO in the region. During the current project HG11009 there has been an increase in GVP of \$118.04 million. This consistent increase in GVP demonstrates that the industry in Bowen Gumlu is continuing to grow, demonstrating the importance of having industry development services in the region.

The IDO's collaborative approach across growers, industry stakeholders and government demonstrates that industry can work together across common goals for the benefit of industry, providing for a more sustainable future. This has allowed for increased communication, targeted direction and implementation of project outcomes.

Evaluation from the IDO Evaluation survey will allow for more targeted activities and outcomes in relation to training and workshops. Grower comments in relation to communication will be addressed as well as project ideas/areas for future IDO work will be included in an updated IDNA to be completed with new project HG14002. Evaluation will continue to be conducted with any future projects to ensure that project is delivering on grower needs and industry priority areas.

The IDO project also links in with key industry strategies such as the AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) and RRDP priorities, demonstrating that whilst this is a region project it delivers on national strategies.

Recommendations

1. Continued funding of the Industry Development Program in the Bowen Gumlu region to continue the projects and initiatives established and provide a vital support to industry and growers
2. Further recognition of the key priorities for the industry and the allocation of funding for resources and extension to facilitate project development delivery and support for the industry
3. Further support is needed for the industry state-wide and nationally for projects and initiatives across industry priorities
 - The improvement of supply chains regionally to cut down on transport costs, quality issues and food security issues
 - Expand export markets (developing export strategies for the industry nationally and regionally and improvement of market access)
 - Initiatives to support growers to incorporate value adding and processing opportunities
 - Pest and disease incursions/management/IPM systems and extension
 - Leadership, upskilling and workforce development (attract, retention and skilling) and recognition of skilled workers on farm
 - Development of a program for career pathway in horticulture
 - Improving on farm delivery systems for legislative requirement, workplace health & safety, industrial relations issues, auditing and quality assurance
 - Improving on farm management systems and efficiencies and the inclusion of improved environmentally friendly practices in farm management systems
 - Consumer research of fresh produce and education programs on production of fresh produce

These are the recommendations contained in the IDNA (Appendix 1) which also link in with National Priorities found in the AUSVEG SIP (2012-17) and the Australian Government RRDP. Priorities identified on a regional and national needs basis include Market and Value Chain Development, Consumer Alignment, Farm Productivity, Resource Use and Management, Climate Variability/Change and Biosecurity.

References

(Both references can be provided by BGGA upon request)

Millar, E 2012, *Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Inc Business Development and Marketing Plan Synopsis - 2012/2013*, pp.1-16

Wright, R 2014, *Mackay, Isaac, Whitsunday Farm to Plate Strategy Part 2 – Regional Action Plan*, Draft, pp.1-31

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- Leanne Born
- Jamie Jurgens

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- Deb Lewis

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- Peter Leach
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- Cameron Tree
- Bibi Homasian
- Andrew Ygosse

Agri-Science

- Siva Subramaniam
- Sarah Limpus
- Cherie Gambley
- Denis Persley
- Ian Walker
- Desmond McGrath
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- John Chapman

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- Don Nicholls
- Paul Walmsley

Workforce Planning

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Plant Industries, Food & Trade

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AUSVEG

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- Andrew White
- William Churchill

Growcom

- Alex Livingstone
- Rachel Mackenzie
- Anna Geddes
- Janine Clark

BFVG

- Peter Hockings
- Geoff Chivers

MDFVGA

- Joe Moro

Vegetables WA

- John Shannon

AMIA

- Trevor Dunmall
- Claire Gilmartin

Melons Australia

- Dianne Fullelove

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- Robyn Rae
- Amanda Lavarack
- Rose Wright
- Ros Trappes

Federal Department of Industry- Business

- Renee Chilton

Queensland Trade and Investment

- Howard Hayes
- Vic O'Keefe

Federal Attorney-General's Department- Chemical Security Risk Assessment Unit

- Angelo Valois

Queensland Department of Education and Training

- Leanne Pascoe

Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mining

- Mark Williams

Federal Department of Immigration and Citizenship

- Stephen Maclean
- Adrian Boyd

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

- Fiona O'Sullivan
- Patricia Reid

Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads

- Chris Herring

Rural Skills Australia

- Bob Ward

Agri-Food Skills Australia

YouthInvest

- Alison McRae

Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges

- Rowan Scott

Queensland TAFE

- Launa Love

Training QLD

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- David Moore
- Selwyn Snell
- Peter Whittle
- Will Gordon

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- Gail Woods
- Vanessa Kennedy
- Vicki Leng
- Julie Willis

Plant Health Australia

- Daryl Barbour

BBIFMAC

- Gerry McManus
- Arwen Rickert
- Tom McShane
- Steve Attard

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- Diana O'Donnell

APVMA

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- Jason Lutz
- James Deller

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- Mayor Jennifer Whitney

Bowen Business Chamber

- Bruce Hedditch

Regional Development Australia

- Andre Wessels

growNorth

- Margie Atkinson

Food Innovation Australia Ltd

- Mirjana Prica

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Industry Development Needs Assessment (inc. Strategic Plan)

Appendix 2- Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan

Appendix 3- Communications

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Industry Development Needs Assessment



Needs Assessment Team Details

(Bowen and Gumlu Region) IDO Management Team

Name	Carl Walker		
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Name	Leanne Born		
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Name	Jamie Jurgens		
Address	P O Box 382, Bowen Qld 4805		
Phone	07 4785 2312	Mobile	0418 988 915
Email	jurgensproduce@bigpond.com		

Proposed meeting schedule

Meeting	Proposed date
Initial meeting to discuss the task and establish the Needs Assessment Team	16/04/2012
1st NAT Meeting	2/07/2012
2nd NAT Meeting	23/07/2012
3rd NAT Meeting	22/9/2009
NAT meetings are each month usually on the third Tuesday of the month	

Needs Assessment Timetable (Bowen & Gumlu Region) Timetable

Stage	Comments	By when	Responsibility
1. Establish Needs Assessment Team (NAT) and determine project management and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed Tool A Needs Assessment Team Details Determined project management and funding 	16/04/2012	Current IDO
2. Set timetable, definitions and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Milestones Set Funding Agreement Signed Achievement Criteria Set Objectives Set 	2/07/2012	Current IDO & Management Team
3. Define the key industry characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tool C – Industry Characteristics Questionnaire Developed Management Committee and other industry representatives to complete questionnaire 	23/07/2012	Current IDO Management Committee

Stage	Comments	By when	Responsibility
4. Review industry development strategy options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Industry Characteristics Questionnaire (Tool C) to be sent to the Team members to complete individually, then compare and compile results when they meet. ▪ Re-evaluate current project activities and prioritise. 	23/07/2012 – 01/08/2012	IDO & Management Committee Members & Industry reps
5. What industry development activities are we doing now?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete Tool D – Industry Development Schedule of Activities with current projects 	03/09/2012	IDO
6. Confirm new list of industry development needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review Tool D - Industry Development Schedule of Activities and complete Tool E - add any new projects 	24/09/2012	IDO & Management Committee
7. Prioritise and funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Determine any new funding to support new projects 	24/09/2012	IDO
8. Determine delivery options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Complete Tool F – New Action Plan 	24/09/2012	IDO & Management Committee

Stage	Comments	By when	Responsibility
9. Implementation plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement employment of an IDO under new project guidelines 	28/09/2012	Management Committee

Industry Characteristics Questionnaire

(Bowen & Gumlu region) Industry characteristics survey

Answers are collated across responses

Location

<p>1. Is your production in any of the following graphical areas?</p> <p>i. Bowen</p> <p>ii. Gumlu</p> <p>iii. Burdekin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes, Bowen, Gumlu & Burdekin
<p>2. Are there new production areas developing in this region?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New varieties and commodities being grown and developed in the regions Some farms expanding into areas previously under cattle, scrub but not in a big way Some diversification into cane and broad acre crop production
<p>3. Are there areas of production in marked decline?</p> <p>If so, where and why?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not really In some cases areas near urban development
<p>4. What share of production do they have?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal Less than 10% This share is increasing

Maturity

<p>5. Is the industry 'mature' in the sense that it has been in existence for a long while with well-established production methods and supply channels?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yes Mature & generational
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Products

<p>6. Is the product/product mix well established and widely recognised? For example; are different varieties identified by consumers; brands developed and brand loyalty established; or value-adding in say packaging or part-processing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growers have very well established brands on boxes • Chain stores/supermarkets use black crates (no branding or area recognition) however are starting to listen to consumers wanting to know the grower and where the product comes from. •
<p>7. Are varieties identified by consumers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • Some grower brands are very well recognised in stores but there is only a few in number • Brands are developed • Brands loyalty has been established in supermarkets in some cases • Brand loyalty is well established in the wholesale/central market • There is value adding packaging displaying local brand/s • Value adding also occurs in processing and there are further opportunities as you can display your brand • The region has a regional branding 'Grown in the Whitsundays' developed in collaboration with BGGA and the local economic development agency
<p>8. Does the region need to develop a land use strategy?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes • This needs to happen due to urban encroachment and other industries such as mining • Most farms are professionals in what they are doing and see the land as a valuable asset and take a sustainable approach to managing the land

Markets & customers

<p>9. Is there a broad base of end-customers (i.e. households/consumers); or is the market more confined or 'niche'?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad base of households and consumers • There is also niche value add and fresh products in the region
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for more development in this area for growers in the region
10. What about the Food Service market? How strong and developing are we there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some growers are marketing their niche product to food service • Supply to Food Service sector is developing with local food service providers working with local supply chain to purchase locally grown produce slowly but consistently – there needs to be more development of local supply and value add opportunities • Some producers supply nationally McDonalds, Subway and other food service groups • This is developing into a strong area for producers
11. Exports? Size? Growth? Prospects?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main markets are domestic during winter months with the region being the largest winter growing vegetable region in Australia • Main export out of this region is New Zealand (medium in size – est. 30 %) • The market has been lost due to key chemical suspension • There is scope for further development of export markets depending on government support programs, risk/profitability profile of specific markets for specific products. • There is huge potential in this area but needs funding, research and market development
12. Is there opportunity to market produce better to service the consumer from the Bowen & Gumlu regional industry level?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, The concept of linking product from the region with the already well established tourism brand for a feel good value adding factor can work • Consumer perceptions need to be changed around taste, quality, brand recognition, area specific i.e where does the product come from, at what point does the consumer stop buying

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumer education programs needed locally, state-wide and nationally in key areas such as cost of production, rising costs, benefits of eating local produce (Australian), benefits of eating healthy food etc
13. Do you see an opportunity for a project in the area of marketing?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, see comments under point 10 above. A close look at the supply chain to support regional brand is needed • Consumer awareness program to teach about value • Perceptions of taste, brand recognition, where products come from • Work with recommendations from Strategic Marketing Plan locally

Supply chain

14. Are there good relationships along the supply chain? If not, Why?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes – varies with individuals/individual businesses? ▪ As long as there is good communication the relationship is good ▪ Overall growers have good relationships with their agents but it doesn't always mean they are getting the best price
15. Is there good communication of market signals and production information along the supply chain?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growers rely on their agents to provide information on prices and market levels ▪ In most cases if there is a good relationship in place then there is a fair bit of communication happening on a regular basis

Competitive environment

16. What is the degree of supplier (grower) power within the industry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing ▪ Minimal
17. What is the degree of buyer (wholesaler, processor or retailer) power within the industry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong ▪ Starting to weaken
18. Availability or threats of substitutes (from imports or within produce categories)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imports are increasing ▪ Risk of lower standards on imported produce and much lower

	<p>cost of production due to lower wages etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increasing selection of different variations within a commodity eg tomatoes, cherry tomatoes, grape tomatoes etc ▪ Categories are expanding leading to more choice which causes market saturation
19. What are the barriers to entry into the industry in the Bowen & Gumlu region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Huge capital investment needed to establish post-harvest facilities ▪ New technology ▪ Startup capital required to plant and harvest crops also high for some crops ▪ Accessing and managing (effectively) staff and labour as an overall component of cost structure ▪ High risk with climate change and natural disasters on the increase ▪ Cost of land/water ▪ Competition from other regions growing over this regions seasonal window
20. What is the level of rivalry between producers in the industry in these regions?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High to medium - however there may be alliances between producers within the region and also inter regionally however long term these alliances may be unstable

Industry structures and planning

21. How well-organised and resourced is the Peak Industry Body?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BGGA is well organised, across local, state and national issues and resourced, has good support from within its grower base ▪ Growcom is good for political and HR issues but not much at a local level the further north from Brisbane you go ▪ AUSVEG – Could improve direct relationship with local regional industry bodies and growers – politically well organised but out of touch with industry at many levels
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	due to high staff turnover and lack of experienced workforce
22. Does the Peak Industry Body nationally and state-wide have the confidence and support of all industry participants?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growcom – No – some growers don't see the benefit in being a member and not enough people on the ground ▪ AUSVEG – Not sure – not enough people on the ground regionally or state-wide, lack of experienced staff with a good knowledge base of the industry issues
23. What about the regional organisation? How well structured and supported are they?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BGGA – Well-structured and supported, IDO has developed a strong presence and support for industry ▪ Membership of the organisation has increased as grower recognise the value of the organisation in terms of information flow
24. As an industry in the Bowen & Gumlu region, are we flexible and able to adjust and respond quickly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes – we have an IDO that is able to communicate quickly & effectively locally with all growers ▪ High percentage of innovative growers and IDO that drives research and collaboration for industry development ▪ Young growers respond quickly and older growers respond slowly
25. Does the locally based organisation provide industry with a good level of support?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes – the IDO/IDO is a critical part of the current high level of support for industry
26. Does industry support this process?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Growing membership and local grower buy-in and collaboration on projects is high across the region

Funding

27. Is there adequate levy and/or matched funding at present to implement the Strategic Plan?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes but there will be a need for funding for future programs and initiatives to be delivered ▪ It is clear there will always be a need for R&D funding to manage pest and disease issues ▪ Funding will be needed to deliver recommendations in the Strategic Marketing Plan for marketing of the regional branding
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expanding involvement in projects/activities to support growers and industry will require additional staff to manage expanded operations
28. Is the industry in the Bowen & Gumlu region generating or accessing other funds to support its programs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BGGA sources funding through a sponsorship program and membership

Information & Technology Transfer

29. Is there adequate flow of industry information between growers, industry bodies and government? If not, where do you see a need for improvement?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There is great information flow and technology transfer through the IDO program ▪ IDO feels there is a need for better industry communication at a national level
30. Does the industry in Bowen and Gumlu region have or collaborate in R&D projects to support the industry locally and nationally?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Yes – in collaboration with industry, government and others
31. Are there any projects you see a need for in the Bowen & Gumlu region that will support the industry?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pest and disease – IPM, Aphids, Powdery Mildew, pest pressure and disease ▪ Market Access – establishing new export markets using the Bowen Gumlu Systems Approach (less chemical and no irradiation) ▪ Produce Centre - Supply chain locally, diversification and value adding, branding, opportunities to develop premium lines and niche products using consumer research ▪ Workforce Development - Shortage of skilled workforce, attraction of skilled workforce, attract people into the industry directly or through tertiary education, creating career pathway opportunities, retaining workforce, skilling workforce ▪ Training - Business Management, Efficiencies in farming businesses and Leadership ▪ Marketing and Promotion of vegetables including consumer

	<p>awareness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪Climate variability ▪Sustainable Farming, efficiencies in environmentally friendly farming and new technology and automation on farm
32. Is there an industry organisation that is the first point of contact for industry in the Bowen & Gumlu region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪BGGA

Industry Cohesiveness

33. Is there increased industry cohesiveness in the Bowen & Gumlu region?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪There has been an increase in cohesion over the past 5 years and improving all the time with the IDO project - the new united Bowen Gumlu Growers Association and rebranding has been a good indication and increased membership of BGGA. ▪Growers, Industry and Government collaboration on a number of projects for the industry locally, state-wide and nationally
34. Where do you see an opportunity to increase industry unity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well targeted projects in automation and new technology ▪Produce centre – growers working together to create opportunities eg educating consumers, marketing the region and production, creating cottage industry, developing a local supply chain, diversification and value add ▪Educating consumers on the cost of production and the professionalism of the industry ▪IPM projects across the region for best practice management of Pests and Diseases creating collaboration opportunities ▪Facilitating the incorporation of Best practice water use efficiencies on farm across the region ▪Working together across projects across regions eg Bundaberg and Bowen

Industry Characteristics Overview

- Horticulture Industry in Bowen and Gumlu is very mature
- The Industry is more cohesive due to
 - the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association amalgamation and rebranding
 - project collaboration between growers, industry and government for a sustainable future
- The industry is able to respond to issues quickly and has a future focus continuing to develop strategies to manage future challenges
- The local growers association (BGGGA) needs to expand to be able to deliver more services to industry
- There is a need for more funding to deliver BGGGA and Industry priorities for long term sustainability
- Bowen and Gumlu face ever increasing competition from
 - other regions growing across seasons
 - globalisation and cheaper imports
 - loss of export markets due to market access issues
- Information Flow is very good
- There are some good current R&D projects that the IDO project and BGGGA have developed, delivered, collaborated and support on:
 - Alternative Fruit Fly Management and Market Access Project for Capsicum and Tomato
 - Alternative Fruit Fly Management and Market Access Project for Eggplant
 - Dimethoate and Fenthion Efficacy Trials
 - Development of a test to quantify irradiation damage in fruit flies
 - MT09068 - Comparison of biodegradable mulch products to polyethylene in irrigated vegetable, tomato and melon crops
 - VG09038 - Vegetable soil health systems for overcoming limitations causing soil borne diseases
 - VG09041 - Environmental effects of vegetable production on 'sensitive' waterways
 - Controlled traffic farming for production efficiencies and soil health in tropical vegetables
 - MT10057 - Nutritional profile of irradiated summer fruit, vegetables and melons
- There are other initiatives and projects that the IDO project and BGGGA have facilitated, developed, delivered, and collaborated on:
 - Local Branding initiative – 'Grown in the Whitsundays' in collaboration with Enterprise Whitsunday

- Workforce development strategy across horticulture and leveraging support from the mining industry and government
 - Horticulture Traineeship and Apprenticeship Program in Bowen & Gumlu– A high school traineeship program that moves into an apprenticeship program over 3-4 years
 - Horticulture Industry Tours for year 9 & 10 students
 - U-Tube competition across the high school incorporating short videos of production in the region
 - Reef Rescue Initiative – improved water management and water quality outcomes on farm improving runoff to the Great Barrier Reef
 - Reef Guardian Initiative in horticulture – Reef Guardian Farmers
 - Delivery of a Strategic Marketing Plan across Agritourism
 - Delivery of an interactive Website promoting production and access to local produce and programs and initiatives
- There is a need for more projects in the areas of
 - Crop Protection and R&D – IPM, Aphids, Powdery Mildew, Pest pressure and Disease
 - Market Access – establishing new export markets using the Bowen Gumlu Systems Approach (less chemical and no irradiation)
 - Market Access – establishing new export pathways using irradiation
 - Produce Centre in Bowen (grower, industry, government collaboration and leveraging) – Creating supply chain locally, diversification and value adding, branding, opportunities to develop premium lines and niche products using consumer research
 - Workforce Development – Delivery of across industry strategy and access to funding to manage
 - Shortage of skilled workforce
 - Attraction of skilled workforce
 - Attract people into the industry directly or through tertiary education and career pathway programs
 - Retaining workforce
 - Skilling workforce
 - Training –
 - Business Management
 - Efficiencies in farming businesses
 - Leadership
 - Marketing and Promotion of vegetables including consumer awareness
 - Growers working collaboratively to market local produce

- Delivery of education programs for consumers on cost of production, value chain, supply chain, consumer expectations, health benefits and more
- Climate variability
- Creating opportunities for farming enterprises to be more efficient
- Being sustainable with the increase of natural disasters and climate variability
- Sustainable Farming
 - Profitability and productivity
 - Efficiencies in environmentally friendly farming
 - New technology, mechanisation and automation on farm
 - Diversification and value adding
 - Managing regulation, legislation and policy to leverage government support

Customer, Markets and products

Products Marketed from Bowen

- Green Beans
 - Sweet Corn
 - Tomatoes (Gourmet, Round, Egg, Grape, Cherry and other variations)
 - Capsicums
 - Zucchini/Squash
 - Melons (Watermelons, Rockmelon, Honeydew)
 - Pumpkins
 - Cucumber
 - Eggplant
 - Chilli
 - Mangoes
- All these commodities do well in the market place – Bowen and Gumlu is the largest winter growing region in Australia)
 - These commodities are seasonal

Products Marketed from the total Whitsunday region

- The Whitsunday region (Bowen, Gumlu, Collinsville, Proserpine and Airlie Beach) region produces
- a diverse range of fruits including mangoes, lemons, limes, oranges, grapefruit, mandarins, pineapples, bananas and passionfruit on a small scale.
- macadamia nuts

- Sugar cane, coffee, cereal, pasture and other crops cut for hay.

Markets (domestic and export)

- Most of the produce going to market is sold domestically throughout Australia with some export in place to New Zealand and further afield in some cases
- Due to the suspension on key chemicals used for market access, export to New Zealand has significantly decreased in the past year (2012)
- Bowen and Gumlu send to market around 244562 tonnes of produce a year
- Produce generally goes through the central markets with some going direct to chain stores and supermarkets (Coles and Woolworths)
- Current trend in Bowen and Gumlu is less growers producing more, growers diversifying and looking to value add products
- The potential for growth of export markets is high as it is relatively undeveloped due to growers relying on exporters to manage export opportunities and high market access requirements from many export markets

Marketing and market development (domestic and export)

- In Bowen and Gumlu there is basic marketing of individual commodities to consumers through the supply chain although some growers have good individual brand recognition in supermarkets
- There is currently no marketing levy although the 'Grown in the Whitsunday' branding initiative is a step in the direction in marketing the produce from this region
- There has been some generic tomato marketing in the past with no real results or consumer data collected around it
- Growers are keen to see marketing and promotion of fresh vegetables to consumers
- Currently only individual producers with the ability to market their produce through Coles or Woolworths can market their product to consumers and still it is not at a professional and high standard
- New markets are identified when current markets are not delivering the outcome needed for a grower to continue producing the produce
- There are projects and initiatives in the pipeline to support growers in diversification, value adding and product development across the region

Competitors and the nature of competition

Competitors

- Bowen and Gumlu now face competition from other regions that no longer produce in a seasonal window but supply markets 12 months of the year (this has eased this season with some major producers in competing

regions unable to be sustainable and no longer producing the large supply they previously did)

- Bowen and Gumlu stick to their seasonal window and in the past have not had competition for part of their season
- Market share is decreasing due to too much choice across one commodity (different types of the same product creating saturation) and competition from a growing Organic market
- Globalisation and imports – Australian farmers continue to compete in a market where there are ever increasing costs of production and uncompetitive labour costs
- There are more imports creating and uneven playing field
- Our competitive advantage is that during Bowen and Gumlu's season there is good quality produce and other areas growing out of season may not have the same quality (unfortunately cheaper produce at lower quality often drives lower prices in the market place)
- Previously supply chain (mainly chain stores) provide consumers with no choice as to where the produce comes from regionally due to produce from different regions being placed on display in one crate or bin that is unmarked – this is changing with a focus on a locally grown, state or Australian grown labelling promotion in stores
- Australia imports many commodities but it is unclear how much

Ease of Entry

- It is difficult for someone wanting to set up a production farming enterprise with huge capital costs involved including integrated systems, mechanisation, automation, innovation and technology in pack-houses and in field as well as the numerous other rising costs involved in production

Alliances and linkages

- Bowen and Gumlu have built good alliances with local, state and federal government as well as industry bodies and other agencies and organisations

Operating Systems

Marketing Systems and structures

- In the Bowen and Gumlu region there is some value adding to production of fresh produce
- Growers are looking to find ways of value adding, diversifying and creating opportunities to develop niche product lines
- Most growers in the region have a good understanding of the cost of product
- Most growers in this region are a member of the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

- The trend in this area is to move towards mechanisation, automation, innovation and technology to improve efficiencies in production removing some of the reliance on seasonal labour force and improving margins on cost of production
- Growers have been incorporating improved farm management systems across irrigation, pesticide, soil and nutrient management for improved water quality outcomes, environmental sustainability and improved efficiencies across their farm
- There are many areas to improve on efficiencies but growers may not know where those areas are - there is a need for a project to deliver actual areas of improvement for even more efficiency on farm

Production systems and processes

- There is a need for improved and up to date production data in comparing costs/productivity with best practice/up to date information
- At this stage there is minimal benchmarking set within the horticulture industry with regard to soil management, nutrient management, irrigation management and pesticide management because from region to region there are so many diverse soil types, production methods and systems – the Reef Rescue Initiative has gone towards supporting some benchmarking
- There is very good local support from the DAFF Q research centre in the areas of Bowen and Gumlu with a need for more government extension officers to deliver improved services to growers
- There are differences in production between regions
- There is increased efficiency opportunities for growers in the area of production through new innovative technology, mechanisation and automation

Industry organisation and performance

Location, extent of production, performance, people

- Bowen and Gumlu (around 1,400km north of Brisbane, 200km south of Townsville)
- Production for this region is worth around \$400M per year, around 244562 tonnes of produce per year, well over 9000hectares,
- The trends in productions are decrease in growers increase in production over the next five years
- The industry production value has doubled over the past 7 years which is directly related to the IDO program across the region
- Most production farms are well resourced and very efficient
- Bowen and Gumlu growing season is from Mid May to Mid November in most varieties apart from Mangoes which come on over December/January

- The industry in Bowen and Gumlu needs to improve its marketing and promotion of produce, explore areas of improvement in the supply chain, supply chain locally to the food service sector, diversification, value adding and creating new domestic and export markets
- There are around 45 growers in the Bowen and Gumlu region
- Bowen and Gumlu have a research station (DAFF Q) with a Horticulturalist, Scientist and Research Officers that provide support in the area of R&D
- There is a lack of skilled industry extension officers in the region with many of the research officers and horticulturalist retiring and not being replaced
- There is a need for more extension officers, horticulturalist and researchers in this region
- There are leadership and development courses available and uptake has been very good but there is a need for more funding to go into further training in these areas

Industry Organisation, funding and Community relationships

- Bowen and Gumlu have an amalgamated association that employs the IDO, a Business Administration Trainee and a part time secretary
- The IDO has provided a high level of support to industry through the local growers association which continues to drive the industry sustainability long term
- Key issues for the association are that it is under resourced (not enough funding) to expand to deliver vital projects to support growers – the IDO is spread thin
- The local industry body is Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) and it is based in Bowen at the local research station
- Currently the BGGA has a membership, HAL support for the IDO program and a sponsorship program with industry

Technical Information and Communication

- Currently the IDO program is the conduit for information flow and delivery in the Bowen and Gumlu region
- The IDO provides information flow to growers and the industry through the following mediums
 - Fax, One-on-one consultation, email, newsletters, website and mail-outs
- The above mentioned activities are delivered on a day to day basis as information flows to the IDO
- The IDO gains information through good industry, government and other networks built over the course of the project. These networks include:
 - Local, State and Federal Government
 - Industry Bodies, Committees, and other organisations and agencies
 - Workshops, Seminars and Forums attended
 - Industry meetings and conferences

- Leadership programs
- Subscriptions to newsletters, industry advice systems, websites and magazines
- The Bowen and Gumlu industry is well respected throughout the local community as it is one of the major industries and drivers of economic development and employment in the region
- The industry employs over 3000 skilled and unskilled workers during the season
- The local community also supports the BGGA through sponsorship each year
- There are no real issues between the community and horticulture industry
- The industry has and will continue to manage the local resources in such a way to not impact on the environmental sustainability of the region and the water supply

Key industry issues affecting the Bowen and Gumlu region

- Pest & Disease Management Issues
- Workforce Issues – Attraction, retention and skilling labour, career pathways, labour shortages and recognition of skilled workers in the industry and more
- Input costs
- Water Issues
- Market Access
- Biosecurity
- Rising cost of production
- Carbon Tax
- Government legislation, regulation and policy
- Imports
- Climate variability – natural disasters
- Fragmentation within the industry
- Lack of extension support from government

BGGA supports growers by managing each issue through strong relationships with government and industry and a collaborative approach to delivering outcomes for growers.

Industry Development Activity Schedule

Schedule of (Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen & Gumlu) Industry development activity

Employment of Industry Development Officers and/or Managers

PROJECT DETAILS							NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM RANKING			
Activity (plus HAL project number if applicable)	Brief description	Intended outcomes	Started	Finish due	Value & funding	Managed by	Urgency (1-3)	Imp. (1-3))	Impact (1-3)	Success (1-3)

HG11009 Bowen Industry Development Officer (Follow-on from HG04016, MT07056, HG08020)	Through an Industry Development Officer (IDO)- Facilitate the horticulture development of Bowen & Gumlu by providing a broad spectrum of communication , information flow and industry development activities/roles including: assist growers to better access information, R&D outcomes and training opportunities that are of relevance and benefit to them and provide growers in Bowen & Gumlu region with a number of	Bowen Gumlu Growers Association is capable of effectively supporting the regions fruit and vegetable industry through a range of avenues with the support of the IDO program By 2013 an estimated 80% of growers in Bowen & Gumlu will have attended workshops/training/seminars listed below Each year for 3 years the following training, workshops, seminars, and field days will be held in the Bowen & Gumlu region Industrial Relations Workplace Health & Safety Improved On-farm Practices Biodegradable Mulch Film field days, workshops and on-farm implementation Workshops on Soil Management, Nutrient Management, Pesticide Management & Irrigation Management Improved farm management systems	1/12/ 2012	1/12/2 014	\$395,575.0 0 BGGGA voluntary contribution and HAL matched	Bowen District Growers Association	2	2	2	2
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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Training programs, workshops and field days (facilitated, managed or delivered by the IDO)

PROJECT DETAILS							NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM RANKING			
Activity (plus HAL project number if applicable)	Brief description	Intended outcomes	Started	Finish due	Value & funding	Managed by	Urgency (1-3)	Imp. (1-3)	Impact (1-3)	Success (1-3)
5 x Market Access forums/meetings	The development of a Systems Approach protocol for the Bowen & Gumlu Region t for market access domestically and for export markets	Market access for tomatoes , capsicums and eggplant through a systems approach protocol	2007	2014	Project VC from BGGGA \$77094 In-kind \$20,000	BGGGA & IDO	1	1	1	1
2 x Fenthion workshops	Suspension of Fenthion, the review, the outcomes and alternatives	Reasons for suspension and alternatives	20/09 /2012	2013	BGGGA In-kind \$1000	BGGGA & IDO	1	1	1	1
4 x Biodegradable Mulch Film Trial Updates and field days (MT09068	The project will continue to produce sound technical data and agronomic advice on potential	The project will result in a practical, environmentally acceptable solution to the insidious polyethylene mulch waste problem. It will support	24/8/ 2009	2014	BGGGA in-kind \$5000 DAFFQ \$10,000 Bio Companie	BGGGA & IDO & DEEDI	2	2	2	2

completed) - continuation of project via BGGGA, DAFFQ and bio companies funding and in-kind support	replacement mulch films evaluated. This information will be made available to growers, the broader horticulture industry and relevant manufacturers through a periodic newsletter, industry publications, a final report and a "how to use" leaflet for industry.	environmental management programs such as Enviroveg, Reef Rescue and raise awareness within the horticulture industry of the potential of biodegradable mulch products to provide alternatives to plastic waste management issues						s in-kind \$15,000	BGGGA, IDO & other collaborative partners	2	2	2	2
Series of workshop to be delivered over the course of the project	<i>Industrial Relations Workplace Health & Safety Improved On-farm Practices Biodegradable Mulch Film field days, workshops and on-farm implementation Workshops on</i>	Workshops delivered in areas identified as key priorities for growers and industry for a more sustainable future	01/01/2012	ongoing	HG11009 (\$425,730) project, BGGGA other funding (\$15,000) and collaborative funding from government								

6 x Pest & Disease Workshops	Soil Management, Nutrient Management, Pesticide Management & Irrigation Management Improved farm management systems Value adding, diversification and regional opportunities Supply Chain Management Leadership Climate Change Water Issues Working Visa's & Labour Shortages Pest Management – eg Dimethoate & Fenthion, Powdery Mildew, Aphids	Updates for growers on Integrated management of foliar diseases,	Feb 2012	2014	In kind - \$6000	IDO & DEEDI	2	2	2	2
	nt, industry and other agencies and bodies in-kind and funding (\$15,000)									

(DAFFQ)		silverleaf whitefly, IPM, research and new pests and diseases in the region.										
6 x Horticulture Nutrition and Soil Health Workshops (3 x Growcom, 3 x AUSVEG)	Yearly Nutrition & Soil Health program	<p>Inform the vegetable industry about levy projects/HAL projects, obtain industry and grower input on industry, issues, challenges, and the key priorities.</p> <p>Soil health and nutrient management on farm - Managing for healthy & productive soils</p> <p>Other topics incorporated in workshops include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• soil pH• macro-nutrient levels and availability• micro-nutrient levels• Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC)• Electrical Conductivity (EC)• Why use a nutrient budgeting and recording tool?• How to use a nutrient budgeting and recording tool.	March 2012	2014	Growcom & AUSVEG - In kind \$10000 BGGGA in-kind \$5000	GROWCO M, BGGGA, IDO, AUSVEG	2	2	2	2	2	

6 x Freshcare (Growcom)	Freshcare Transition training in Bowen & Gumlu	Initial accreditation & Version updates of Freshcare	9/3/2 012	10/3/ 2014	BGGA In kind - \$2000 Growers - user pay system	GROWCO M & IDO	2	2	2	2
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Industry communications (newsletters, magazines, websites, DVD's etc)

PROJECT DETAILS											NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM RANKING			
Activity (plus HAL project number if applicable)	Brief description	Intended outcomes	Started	Finish due	Value & funding	Managed by	Urgency (1-3)	Imp. (1-3))	Impact (1-3)	Success (1-3)				
Newsletter	Collation of industry information	Information Flow via Newsletter	June 2005	Ongoing	\$2400 print pa	IDO	2	2	2	2				
Website	BGGA new interactive Website	Provides a very good overview of projects and initiatives of the IDO and BGGA including information regarding projects, initiatives and programs for industry, community and others	Nov 2012	Ongoing	Start up \$11,000 Annual fees - \$1500 pa to manage	BGGA/IDO	3	2	2	2				
Mail Outs/Fax Outs	BGGA Mail outs & Fax outs of Information	Provides the best way of information flow quickly to all growers	June 2005	Ongoing	\$3840 pa	IDO	1	1	1	1				
Email	Important information may be sent to	Email information that can only be emailed to addresses listed	June 2005	Ongoing	\$1800 pa	IDO	3	1	2	2				

	growers through a number of modes of communication																		
Publications	Good News stories written in Publications	To promote information flow throughout the region good news stories and important industry issues are given to local and industry publications to promote widely	June 2005	Ongoing	In-kind \$2000 pa	IDO	3	1	2	2									

Other

PROJECT DETAILS										NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM RANKING			
Activity (plus HAL project number if applicable)	Brief description	Intended outcomes	Started	Finish due	Value & funding	Managed by	Urgency (1-3)	Imp. (1-3)	Impact (1-3)	Success (1-3)			
Made in the Whitsunday branding Initiative	Across Industry Branding that can be used in the horticulture industry in Bowen & Gumlu	Market and Promote fresh produce from the Bowen and Gumlu region	Oct 2009	Ongoing	\$4000 In-kind \$4000 p/a	IDO & BGGGA	2	2	2	2			
Traineeships & Apprenticeships in Horticulture Production	Organised registration of cert 2 in Horticulture Production and working on an	-School based traineeship Cert 2 Horticulture Production -Proposed apprenticeship in horticulture production -Delivery of school	Jan 2010	Ongoing	In-kind \$4000		1	1	1	1			

	Apprenticeship in Horticulture Production	industry tours program x 6 per year -Career opportunities in horticulture program in the local high school							
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PRIORITISATION RANKING GUIDE									
Urgency (in the context of the industry's national interest)	Ranked 1 to 3 with: 1. Very Urgent Must be continued (existing projects) or addressed immediately 2. Urgent Must be continued (existing projects) or addressed within the next three years 3. Not so Urgent Must be continued (existing projects) or addressed within the next five years								
Importance (in the context of the industry's national interest)	Ranked 1 to 3 with: 1. Very Important Critical to the survival of the industry 2. Important Important for the industry's development and growth 3. Not so Important Would be valuable to do, funds permitting								
Impact (in the context of the industry's national interest)	Ranked 1 to 3 with: 1. Greatest Impact Very significant impact on the overall industry's profitability and or future viability 2. High Impact Considerable beneficial impact, though not of the highest level 3. Moderate Impact Impact is limited or restricted to a certain sector, region or group								
Success (in the context of the industry's national interest)	Ranked 1 to 3 with: 1. High Very likely to achieve the outcomes 2. Moderate Reasonably likely to achieve the outcomes 3. Limited Only a limited chance of achieving the outcomes								

POTENTIAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

Employment of Industry Professionals (such as IDMs & IDOs)									
PROJECT DETAILS					NEEDS ASSESSMENT TEAM RANKING				
Brief Description	Intended Outcomes	Possible Start	Possible Finish	Possible Budget	Managed By	Urgency (1-3)	Impact (1-3)	Success (1-3)	
<p>Project Officer - Domestic & Export market development, and Delivery of value add niche products encouraging diversification, creating demand, and local supply opportunities (growers produce hub/centre)</p> <p>This project would cover the following priority areas:</p> <p>(MARKET & VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT -</p> <p>Developing new markets and capturing greater value for Australian vegetables.</p> <p>Expanding and defending existing</p>	<p>Improved domestic & export market access for growers in Bowen & Gumlu</p> <p>Understanding of domestic and international markets and consumer requirements</p> <p>Create opportunities in new export markets</p> <p>Research current supply chains domestically and locally</p> <p>Identify opportunities within the local supply chain for diversification, value add niche products, across industry product development, collaboration locally and local supply opportunities</p> <p>Research consumer trends and develop marketing strategies across local branding opportunities</p> <p>Develop a local supply</p>	1 Jan 2011	July 2013	\$395,000	BGGA	2	2	2	

ACTION PLAN

<p>Industry development need</p> <p>HG11009 Bowen and Gumlu - Industry Development Officer (Follow-on from HG04016, MT07056, HG08020)</p> <p>▪ Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen & Gumlu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Assist growers to better access information, R&D outcomes and training opportunities that are of relevance and benefit to them and support efforts to build a strong and united industry in the region	
<p>Outcome required by completion of project or ongoing project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• By 2014 an estimated 80% of growers in Bowen & Gumlu region will have attended the workshops/training sessions listed below and or undertaken improved on-farm practices• By 2014 all growers in the Bowen & Gumlu region will have had the opportunity be a part of the continued Reef Rescue Plan which aims to improve FMS and improved water quality practices on-farm in order to reduce runoff to the Great Barrier Reef• By 2014 all growers will have access to information flow through the IDO program delivering information on R & D outcomes, Pest & Disease issues, IPM, Farm Management Systems• By 2014 there will be increased industry cohesiveness with a number of key projects and initiatives developed to support greater collaboration for a more sustainable future• By 2014 an estimated 80% of growers in the region will have taken part in industry development activities• By 2014 there will be an increase in grower diversification, the development of niche products and value add opportunities	
<p>Strategic plan link</p> <p>Goal 1 Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of IDO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collecting and collating Information from within the industry and government to deliver information flow on<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New Technology & Innovation as well as mechanisation and automation○ R&D project outcomes○ Vegetable Industry Development Programs	

- Regulation, Legislation, Policies, & Priorities
- Industry body activities (local, state, national)
- Workshops/Seminars/Forums/Training/Leadership
- Business Management & Farm Management Systems (Water, Soil, Nutrient, Irrigation, Pesticide)
- Sources of funding
- Environmental Initiatives
- Value Add and diversification
- Local supply chains

• Building relationships and networks with industry bodies, government (local, state and federal)

• Support BGGG in developing, managing and delivery of projects to support local growers and industry

Goal 2 Develop projects specific to the needs of the industry in this region and align with industry priorities

- Pest & Disease (powdery mildew, aphids, systems approach for fruitfly and IPM)
- Supply Chain Locally (produce hub/centre)
- Export Market Development
- Strategic Marketing Plan for local branding initiatives
- Improve on farm management systems (environmental, reef plan and efficiencies across farm)
- Up skill on farm workers
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships in Horticulture Production Development
- Develop best practice across industry
- Workforce development (attraction, retention and skilling) and Career Pathways (Schools programs and marketing programs)
- Education of consumers (production, health benefits and general marketing)
- Value Add and Diversification on farm

<p>Strategic Investment Plan priorities</p> <p>MARKET & VALUE CHAIN DEVELOPMENT - Developing new markets and capturing greater value for Australian vegetables. Expanding and defending existing markets.</p> <p>CONSUMER ALIGNMENT - Better understanding and meeting of consumer needs both domestically and internationally to increase demand and/or price. (Develop capabilities to deliver products that meet consumer preference including products with enhanced quality, safety, health, convenience, shelf life, consistency, novelty and sustainability)</p> <p>FARM PRODUCTIVITY, RESOURCE USE & MANAGEMENT - Improving farm productivity through the adoption of new technologies and techniques, making the most efficient use of resources.</p>	<p>Public or spill-over benefit</p> <p>Developing initiatives that not only deliver opportunities for growers to be more sustainable long term through expanding markets, diversification and collaboration with the flow on the creation of a more sustainable future for other local industries and the community</p> <p>Use of less chemicals and pesticides long term will have benefits for the environment, the sustainability of generational farming and benefits for the local community surrounding the growing region</p> <p>Managing on-farm systems will mean less chemical, pesticide and nutrient runoff to the Great Barrier Reef ensuring the environmental sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef long term and creating improved efficiencies within farming enterprises</p> <p>By managing Biosecurity issues through industry collaboration, IPM and other initiatives across industry the region will have less pest or disease issues</p>
<p>Current activity and comment</p> <p>This project has been running for over 7 years with slightly different activities being undertaken due to the natural progression of the project (prior to project there was no information flow, no new projects, no collaboration or cohesion)</p>	

Funding options

- HAL matched funding
- BGGG VC funding

Actions

Action	By when	Responsibility
1. IDO Management Committee in place and overall project management structure in place	Completed	BGGA
2. Project Approved and new IDO to be contracted	19/10/2012	BGGA
3. Commence project- Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen & Gumlu) – Delivery of Industry development activity schedule	22/10/2013	IDO & BGGA
4. Independent Review of project HG11009 - Facilitating the horticulture development of Bowen & Gumlu) - through Industry development activity schedule for project delivery	31/10/2013	HAL & BGGA – independent review
5. At the beginning of each new year of the project an evaluation of the project will determine appropriate changes to research & development, training programs and information delivery to address any new key issues	Ongoing till the completion of the project	IDO & BGGA
6. There will be an evaluation of what has been achieved in the project which will include an industry survey to measure the impact of the project in the Bowen & Gumlu region. This will be completed towards the end of the project which will link with future proposals in continuation of this type of project	On completion of the project	IDO & BGGA

Key Performance Indicator's

IDO to provide a broad spectrum of communication, information flow and industry development activities/roles including:

- Providing growers with access to business development opportunities across business management, farm management systems and best practice in processing and production systems
- Supporting growers in managing the key challenges and issues at the various levels, regional, state and national, to deliver outcomes for the long term sustainability of the industry
- Acting as the first point of contact and information base for growers, government and industry
- Developing projects, initiatives and programs for the sustainability of the horticulture industry at a local, state-wide and national level as well as the local community e.g. projects in improving market access and market development, local branding, improved environmental management on farm and protecting the Great Barrier Reef, improved supply chains, mechanisation, setting best practice, skilling and training students and providing career pathways and healthy community partnerships promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and more
- Supporting efforts to build a strong and united industry and local community in the region
- Building on and creating networks and relationships throughout the industry, government and the local community
- Assisting growers to better access information, R&D outcomes and training opportunities that are of relevance and benefit to them
- Providing direction on local, state and federal government priorities for horticulture and other industries
- Seeks support for the industry in this region to further develop the horticulture industry across a broad range of key priorities

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Industry Strategic Plan



BOWEN GUMLU
GROWERS ASSOCIATION INC.
Collectively we grow

Vision

A strong and cohesive industry working towards a sustainable future for growers

Mission

BGGA efficiently and effectively represents and promotes the members interests by providing beneficial services that will help support their business and build a more sustainable industry for the future of the horticulture industry.

Collectively we grow

Industry challenges and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses

Strengths

- ⇒ Ideal climate for growing vegetables in winter when other regions are too cold, this contributes to the Whitsundays being one of the largest winter growing vegetable region in Australia
- ⇒ A strong knowledge base passed down through generational farming, the region has been growing produce since the 1880's
- ⇒ The backpacker market provides a good supply of seasonal labour perfect for picking and packing work during harvest
- ⇒ Through the united front of the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA), the industry has good communication and information flow, networks and collaboration with growers, industry, government and the local community
- ⇒ BGGA and the Industry Development program are proactive and drive industry sustainability and capacity building
- ⇒ Growers are involved in key government initiatives, programs and projects to support the industry facilitated by the Industry Development project. This provides growers with the opportunity to be involved in projects and initiatives as well as uptake technology and implement outcomes of initiatives and projects
- ⇒ Growers have quality assurance, accreditations and certifications in place for auditing and regulation
- ⇒ Growers generally have good farm management systems and processes in place and have been improving their farm management systems through number of initiatives facilitated through the industry development program
- ⇒ Many growers are moving toward softer chemicals and environmentally friendly farming practices
- ⇒ The region is recognised nationally as a supplier of quality fresh produce.
- ⇒ The industry is well recognised throughout Queensland and Australia for being proactive and supportive of key initiatives within the industry, their opinions are respected.

- ⇒ Due to Bowen being situated eight hours from nearest major growing region (Bundaberg), pests and diseases are at lower levels than other regions
- ⇒ The Whitsunday horticulture industry is the most efficient user of water for fruit and vegetable production in Australia, the region also currently has a good supply of water
- ⇒ The value of the local industry has increased significantly since the introduction of the industry development program with less growers and the same amount of land under production

Weaknesses

- ⇒ Overall, the industry nationally is fragmented. This is driven by competition and leads to over supply on the domestic market causing low prices.
- ⇒ Some growers take a short-term approach when making business decisions. This can cause some businesses to have insecure cash flow management and affect their long-term profitability and sustainability.
- ⇒ Some large-scale growers only focus on the competitive domestic markets and may not understand the effects of globalisation and the increasing importance for them to compete at a global and domestic level in order for their business to be sustainable.
- ⇒ There is lack of funding for market development strategies leading to new market and business diversification opportunities such as value adding
- ⇒ Being a relatively remote region located over 1,000kms from the nearest capital city (Brisbane), the cost of freight and transport is high and produce must travel long distances to central markets
- ⇒ Continuity of supply through the summer months, the Whitsundays currently only has production during the winter season
- ⇒ Pest & disease control is a challenge in north Queensland's climate which is made worse by chemical reviews and loss of key chemicals for market access
- ⇒ There is a lack funded research and development projects to support market access, particularly in the area of biosecurity.

- ⇒ Lack of skilled labour available and the increasing skills shortage that is shared with the region's mining and construction industry
- ⇒ Lack of succession planning and young people entering the workforce, the horticulture industry tends to lose knowledge and key stakeholders as no retention strategies are in place. This issue is unassisted by the lack of national industry leadership and long-term local strategies need funding.
- ⇒ Natural disasters occurring in the region such as droughts, cyclones and floods
- ⇒ Lack of marketing and promotion of fresh produce and consumer education, particularly around produce blemishes, health benefits, and the cost of production

Opportunities

- ⇒ Build further capacity through stakeholder collaboration for the purpose of marketing, promotion and education programs
- ⇒ Add value to current business practices through food processing, crop diversification, smart packaging and tourism
- ⇒ Work with local distribution companies to improve supply chain efficiencies and lower the cost of transport through strengthening regional networks
- ⇒ Secure a share of the high end, low volume market through crop diversification into high yield, niche products
- ⇒ Drive the high volume, average price market and incorporate mechanisation & innovation practices with the aim of reducing labour force and lowering overall production costs and improving efficiency
- ⇒ Work with training organisations and government to build capacity in young people (traineeships, apprenticeships, skills development programs)
- ⇒ Use technology and the Internet to track industry development and sustainability and improve procedures such as measuring and forecasting supply and demand within the global economy
- ⇒ Use creative marketing and communication tactics to raise the region's profile as a fresh food producer and consumer awareness about food production

- ⇒ Build on the local brand and collaborate with other local industry such as tourism to capitalise on the positive reputation of the Whitsundays
- ⇒ Continue to work with government and industry on projects that set the standards in farming
- ⇒ Development of environmentally friendly farming practices by industry for industry rather than government setting the standards
- ⇒ Explore opportunities in the export market
- ⇒ Market Research surrounding the use of waste product
- ⇒ Follow national and global market trends to ensure the region is meeting consumer demand

Challenges

- ⇒ The rising cost of production and the threat of cheaper overseas imports and free trade agreements
- ⇒ A weakening relationship between farms and food prices meaning a decline in farmers share of consumer spend (growers are price takers not price setters)
- ⇒ Over supply and low prices on the domestic market due to a decrease in Australian exports (high \$AU and high regulation) and increase in overseas imports
- ⇒ Reduced viability on the value add sector due to the high cost of production and low cost of imports
- ⇒ Increased competition with investment in the Australian horticulture industry from countries such as India and China
- ⇒ Sectors of the industry are put under pressure and experience financial burden when there is a pest or disease incursion for commodities that do not have a mandatory levy in place.
- ⇒ The economic impact of legislation and the effects of legislative change
- ⇒ Climate change, the carbon price initiative and other rising costs of production associated with adjusting to new environments

- ⇒ Increases in minimum wage and the lack of availability of seasonal skilled labour
- ⇒ Competition for skilled workers with the mining industry and inability to provide workers with 12 month, full-time employment
- ⇒ The negative effects of a two-speed Australian economy on the cost of living and consumers average expendable income
- ⇒ The occurrence of natural disasters and financial losses associated with the recovery
- ⇒ Rapid global population growth and the demand that puts on primary industries that may not have developed efficient technology to support the increase in production
- ⇒ Migration and cultural shifts leading to changes in consumer demand

Industry challenges and opportunities, strengths and weaknesses

Recommendations

- Continued funding of the Industry Development Program in this region to continue the projects and initiatives established and provide vital support to industry and growers
- Further recognition of the key priorities for the industry and the allocation of funding for resources and extension to facilitate project development and support for the industry
- Further support is needed for industry state-wide and nationally for projects and initiatives across priority areas
 - the improvement of supply chains regionally to cut down on transport costs, quality issues and food security issues (Local producers supplying the local food service sector)
 - expand Export Markets (developing export strategies for the industry nationally and regionally and improvement of market access)
 - initiatives to support growers to incorporate value adding and processing opportunities
 - pest and disease incursions/management/IPM systems and extension
 - leadership, up-skilling and workforce development (attraction, retention and skilling) and recognition of skilled workers on farm
 - development of a program for career pathways in horticulture
 - improving on farm delivery systems for legislative requirements, workplace health & safety, industrial relations issues, auditing and quality assurance

- improved on farm management systems and efficiencies and the inclusion of improved environmentally friendly practices in farm management systems
- marketing and promotion of fresh produce to consumers and education programs on production of fresh produce

Goals

1. Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of IDO
2. Develop projects specific to the needs of the industry in this region and align with industry priorities
3. Stable membership and continue to work towards a more unified industry locally and further afield
4. Be the first point of contact for all growers, government, industry and other stakeholders
5. To be a strong and cohesive organisation representing growers and the industry
6. Being a voice for all growers on major issues that effect this industry

Strategies

Goal 1 Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of IDO

Collecting and collating Information from within the industry and government to deliver information flow on

- New Technology & Innovation as well as mechanisation and automation
- R&D project outcomes
- Vegetable Industry Development Programs
- Regulation, Legislation, Policies, & Priorities
- Industry body activities (local, state, national)
- Workshops/Seminars/Forums/Training/Leadership
- Business Management & Farm Management Systems (Water, Soil, Nutrient, Irrigation, Pesticide)
- Sources of funding
- Environmental Initiatives
- Value Add and diversification
- Local supply chains

Building relationships and networks with industry bodies, government (local, state and federal)

Support BGGGA in developing, managing and delivery of projects to support local growers and industry

Goal 2 Develop projects specific to the needs of the industry in this region and align with industry priorities

- Pest & Disease (powdery mildew, aphids, systems approach for fruitfly and IPM)
- Supply Chain Locally (produce hub/centre)
- Export Market Development
- Strategic Marketing Plan for local branding initiatives
- Improve on farm management systems (environmental, reef plan and efficiencies across farm)
- Up skill on farm workers
- Traineeships and Apprenticeships in Horticulture Production Development
- Develop best practice across industry
- Workforce development (attraction, retention and skilling) and Career Pathways (Schools programs and marketing programs)
- Education of consumers (production, health benefits and general marketing)
- Value Add and Diversification on farm

Goal 3 Stable membership and continue to work towards a more unified industry locally and further afield

- Provide more services and expand the association
- Work across industry on key initiatives to support a more unified and collaborative approach to industry issues and challenges
- Promote BGGGA services to all growers and associations in the region
- Promote a professional approach as an association in managing key issues for the industry, collaboration and building networks and relationships with industry, government and the local community
- Deliver collaborative community initiatives to promote the industry locally
- Providing more opportunities for BGGGA to be involved in social activities

Goal 4 Be the first point of contact for all growers, government, industry and other stakeholders

- Build relationships and networks with key stakeholders, industry bodies and government
- Promote BGGGA to industry through delivery of outcomes in projects, collaboration and networking
- Provide quality information flow throughout the industry at all levels
- Utilise industry and non-industry publications to deliver information to industry and community on the key initiatives delivered by BGGGA
- BGGGA office provides high quality customer service for all enquiries

Goal 5 To be a strong and cohesive organisation representing growers and the industry

- Delivering to members and industry in key output areas
- Collaboration on projects, initiatives and programs from growers, industry and government
- Strong industry and member support
- Grower, Industry and Government recognition

Goal 6 Being a voice for all growers on major issues that effect this industry

- Build relationships and networks with growers, industry, key stakeholders and government
- Communicate and work with growers, networks, keys stakeholder and government to build recognition and respect
- Being the first point of contact for government, industry, growers, key stakeholders and community
- Achieve outcomes and all of the above goals
- Support all growers

ACTION PLAN

Goals	Strategies	Action	By Whom	Time Measure
1.Continue to provide information flow and industry development through employment of IDO	<p>Collecting and collating Information from within the industry and government to deliver information flow on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Technology & Innovation as well as mechanisation and automation - R&D project outcomes - Vegetable Industry Development Programs - Regulation, Legislation, Policies, & Priorities - Industry body activities (local, state, national) - Workshops/Seminars/Forums/Training/Leadership - Business Management & Farm Management Systems (Water, Soil, Nutrient, Irrigation, Pesticide) - Sources of funding - Environmental Initiatives - Value Add and diversification - Local supply chains <p>Building relationships and networks with industry bodies, government (local, state and federal)</p> <p>Support BGGGA in developing, managing and delivery of projects to support local growers and industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regular Communication with Industry, Government and growers at all levels via phone, internet, newsletters, media releases, studies, meetings, forums, workshops, conferences, and seminars -Build on and develop new networks -Collate information gathered from all sources and deliver to growers, government, industry as appropriate -Develop and collaborative manage projects specific to the needs of the industry 	IDO	Ongoing

	<p>local community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deliver collaborative community initiatives to promote the industry locally - Providing more opportunities for BGGA to be involved in social activities 			
<p>4. Be the first point of contact for all growers, government, industry and other stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build relationships and networks with key stakeholders, industry bodies and government - Promote BGGA to industry through delivery of outcomes in projects, collaboration and networking - Provide quality information flow throughout the industry at all levels - Utilise industry and non-industry publications to deliver information to industry and community on the key initiatives delivered by BGGA - BGGA office provides high quality customer service for all enquiries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regularly maintain networks through communication mediums to deliver good information flow throughout the industry - Maintain communication channels such as subscriptions to newsletters, mailouts, and media releases to obtain as much information as possible - Build and maintain networks, relationships and stakeholder engagement 	IDO	Ongoing
<p>5. To be a strong and cohesive organisation representing growers and the industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivering to members and industry in key output areas - Collaboration on projects, initiatives and programs from growers, industry and government - Strong industry and member support - Grower, Industry and Government recognition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continued regular communication with industry, government, growers, stakeholders and community - Collaboration on projects - Regular structured meetings with growers - Members attending regular meetings 	BGGA & IDO	Ongoing

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing good delivery of services to support growers needs - Promoting the benefits of membership - Gaining new members - Working with growers and industry to deliver solutions to issues - Providing good information flow and technology transfer 		
6. Being a voice for all growers on major issues that effect this industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build relationships and networks with growers, industry, key stakeholders and government - Communicate and work with growers, networks, keys stakeholder and government to build recognition and respect - Being the first point of contact for government, industry, growers, key stakeholders and community - Achieve outcomes and all of the above goals - Support all growers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with growers, developing good relationships, promoting stability within the BGGA - work with government, industry, growers, stakeholders and community on key initiatives, programs and projects - Encourage collaboration between growers to work together on major issues - Gain recognition within the industry as an association - deliver or facilitate workshops on major issues with industry bodies giving growers the opportunity to put their point of view forward 	BGGA & IDO	Ongoing



WHITSUNDAY PRODUCTION HORTICULTURE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan was developed in consultation with industry representatives, growers and government and aims to support the local implementation of the Queensland Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan 2013-15, by attracting, up-skilling and retaining employees within the industry. This plan will be driven by the Regional Workforce Development Officer and the Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Working Group.

Objective 1

To ATTRACT new entrants to the industry

Strategy 1.1

Establish an *Industry School Program* in the Whitsunday region, which will encourage students to seek careers within the production horticulture industry

Actions

Design and facilitate *Seed, Grow and Show* within Primary Schools and establish it as an annual project

Develop and distribute a promotional industry brochure and careers display

Establish an annual cycle of industry and careers promotion to local High School Students and Teachers which would include: sharing of resources, guest speakers, farm tours, poster competitions and other relevant activities.

Facilitate work experience opportunities including *Work Inspirations* and *Greener Futures*

Support and promote the adoption of *Gateway Schools* within the region

Strategy 1.2

Promote Industry Traineeships

Provide support and assistance to growers, employees, Group Training Organisations and Registered Training Organisations to assist in the uptake and retention of traineeships

Strategy 1.3

Promote Industry Internships and/or work experience

Provide support and assistance to growers, universities and students to assist in the uptake of internships

Objective 2

To UPSKILL workers within the industry

Strategy 2.1

Facilitate management and business training

Actions

Facilitate a range of workshops / skill set packages which provide management and business up-skilling opportunities according to required needs such as; leadership, workforce development, planning and management, human resources, administration, succession planning etc.

Facilitate access to Small Business Development Manager consultation sessions.

Strategy 2.2

Facilitate industry technical and operational training

Encourage training providers to increase their capacity to develop training resources and to modify delivery styles and programs to meet specific industry needs.

Facilitate a range of workshops/ skill set packages which provide technical and operational up-skilling opportunities according to required need, such as; crop monitoring, precision agriculture, irrigation and water management,

spraying, fertilisation etc.

Facilitate statutory and licencing requirement, according to required needs such as; HACCP, Freshcare, Chemcert and Forklift etc.

Objective 3

To RETAIN workers within the industry

Strategy 3.1

Undertake activities which raise the profile of the industry

Actions

Assist growers develop and adopt Internal retention strategies which will assist them to identify, train and retain staff with leadership potential

Assist employers and employees without formal qualifications gain RPL status through the Certificate III Guarantee or similar

Develop and promote career profiles

Objective 4

To improve industry access to skilled employees

Strategy 4.1

Enhance employment pathways to industry

Actions

Update, improve and promote the “Industry Connect” page on BGGA website

Assist growers develop and adopt a range of Human resource strategies which will enable them to attract the best talent

Objective 5

Build industry capacity

Strategies

Establish the Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Working Group (WPHWDWG), who will meet on a quarterly basis to guide the development, implementation and evaluation of the plan

Participate in the Queensland Production Horticulture Industry, Education and Training Network (IETN)

Disseminate workforce development information via BGGA Newsletters and various media outlets on a regular basis

Undertake activities which advocate for ongoing industry support

Communication Appendices

Fresh Source Columns

June 2013



Promising start to growing season

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GUMLU GROWERS ASSOCIATION (BGGA)

The Bowen Gumlu region has had a good start to 2013 with some growers kicking into production in the later part of April.

Melons coming out of the region have been of high quality, with some growers picking earlier than previous years. However a prolonged summer in the southern regions of Australia has led to an average market price.

Late April also saw the first tomatoes and capsicums leave the region. The quality of these commodities has been good and is expected to improve as the season progresses.

The Systems Approach for capsicums and tomatoes in the Bowen Gumlu region has also been progressing with the support of the State Government.

Currently the Systems Approach is moving forward with its completion and implementation hopefully in this growing season.

BGGA appreciates the work done by Queensland's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh for providing support and resources to market access issues faced by the horticulture industry.

BGGA will be also be collaborating with Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) on a Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus and Potato Leaf Roll Virus research study to be conducted this year in the region.

This project will be funded by a range

of stakeholders from within the horticulture industry.

Contributors to this project to date include the Kapis Brothers, Prospect Agriculture, BGGA, Queensland DAFF, Coles and Woolworths with others currently involved in discussions to commit funding to this project.

This study will combine the expertise of plant virologists, entomologists, plant breeders, agronomist and extension specialists to take a holistic approach to fully understand the disease complex.

This project team will then develop and implement a management program through grower engagement across the region to reduce the impact of the disease and hence ensure continuity of product supply to consumers.

This approach will also be transferrable to other regions impacted by these viruses.

Planning is well underway for BGGA Annual Gala Night which is set for 27 July. This night is shaping up to be a great event and one in which we hope all will enjoy.





BGGA annual events exhibit local horticulture industry

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GUMLU GROWERS ASSOCIATION (BGGA)

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) held its annual Gala Dinner and Industry Breakfast in July providing a great opportunity to showcase the local horticulture industry in the region.

The Industry Breakfast and Farm Tour were attended by a range of industry partners, BGGA members and local government.

It provided some insights into the local horticultural industry with a focus on the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GBRMPA) Reef Guardian program.

Currently a pilot program of the GBRMPA Reef Guardian Farmer is occurring in the region with two local growers participating. The program is hoped to provide recognition for the good environmental work undertaken by industry to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

This year's farm tour was conducted on Jamie and Melita Jurgens, of Jurgens Produce.

During the tour Jamie Jurgens provided insights into their sustainable farming practices that have accumulated to achieve their Reef Guardian status.

BGGA's annual Gala Dinner was attended by local growers, wholesalers, industry partners as well as distinguished guests which included the Queensland Minister

for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh, Federal Member for Dawson George Christensen and Member for Burdekin Rosemary Menkens.

Attendees were entertained by the comedic and magical genius of Phil "trust me" Cass, who provided laughs and left the audience somewhat confused. A big thank you to Fabien Bachagherouni from MAF RODA Colour Vision Systems, who graciously participated on stage.

Guests were also entertained by Ruby Tuesday who provided music for guests to dance the night away.

These events were held later than usual in an effort to showcase the local horticultural industry in full swing.

This season has however, been a tough one for growers, with prices remaining low. The month of August has seen the prices of tomatoes and capsicums improve which has been a relief to many.

The opening up of the irradiation pathway for capsicums and tomatoes to New Zealand has been a welcome sight for many in Bowen and Gumlu.

Although many would have welcomed this earlier in the season, the regaining of market access to New Zealand marks a significant step in maintaining market access and the sustainability of industry.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

The Bowen and Gumlu horticulture region:

- Has an industry worth over \$400 million a year
- Is the largest winter growing region in Australia
- Employs around 3200 skilled and unskilled workers a year
- Has horticulture as it's largest economic driver in the region
- Boasts vegetable production from April/May through to November
- Produces mangoes from November to December.



Finalised Systems Approach called ICA-48

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GUMLU GROWERS ASSOCIATION

During this season the weather in the Bowen and Gumlu region has been good to crops, resulting in good quality and quantity. However, with prices low and remaining low for the majority of the season, it was a disappointing year for many.

A silver lining was the finalisation of the Systems Approach for Bowen and Gumlu. This is now officially, ICA-48 Pre-Harvest Treatment and Postharvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in the Bowen and Gumlu Region.

This is a regionally and seasonally specific protocol, which was accepted by all States and Territories in Australia, except Western Australia.

This marks the end of a long process spanning some seven years, from the start of the research project in Bowen to the official release of the protocol.

This would not have been possible without a range of people, with a special mention to the local Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries (DAFF) and Forestry Research Station and local Bowen and Gumlu growers whose support and dedication to the project were vital.

It is hoped that with time, ICA-48 can be utilised as an option to maintain export market pathways.

In late September, Bowen and Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) welcomed Bianca Fullarton to the position of Regional Workforce Development Officer (RWDO).

This is a new position to help support the implementation of the Queensland Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan 2013-15.

Locally this role will be addressing regional issues, within the production horticulture industry, in order to attract new employees, retain and up-skill existing employees, with the overall goal of improving productivity and profitability.

There will be four RWDO positions across Queensland, as well as a statewide coordinator, will all working collaboratively to deliver the plan statewide. These positions are funded by DAFF.

Mango season is now upon us with Gumlu and Bowen with growers now picking. There was good fruit setting on trees and so far good news has followed, with good quality fruit coming off the trees.



Bianca Fullarton, Bowen and Gumlu's Regional Workforce Development Officer.



The original R2E2 mango tree at Bowen Research Station where the Systems Approach research began.



April 2014



Cyclones, missing mangoes and more rain needed

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GUMLU GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Like much of Australia, by the beginning of March, Bowen was wondering where all the rain had gone.

Bowen received some heavy rain fall in late January from cyclone Dylan, however not as much as what was originally anticipated as it passed on the southern side of the region, taking much of the heavy falls with it.

There were high concerns held by many in the township of Bowen, with the cyclone predicted to hit at the same time as a king tide. Fortunately Cyclone Dylan hit a lot earlier than predicted which reduced the threat of a storm surge.

The lack of rainfall has left many wondering if we will get a good enough rainfall for the season and avoid water restrictions. As this column is written, a low is sitting in the Coral Sea with hopes that this will bring some falls to the region in the coming days.

The region is starting to prepare for the season, with ground preparations underway, plastic going down as well as some of the first plants going into the ground.

In 2014, BGGA will be engaging with local schools to implement a schools program. This will be implemented by our Regional Workforce Development Officer, Bianca Fullarton.

The program includes teacher and student tours, vegetable growing and poster competitions as well as teacher resources.

The aim is to raise awareness of the employment options in the local industry as well as career pathways into the industry. Through this program we hope to create awareness and promote the horticulture industry to our local schools and community.

As many are probably aware, we recently lost our beloved Big Mango. While now it has been returned, a bit worse for wear, we found the coverage that this stunt received quiet extraordinary, with news channels across Australia and international picking up the story.

This stunt has most certainly raised the profile of Bowen's local mango industry and well and truly put Bowen on the map!

Planning has also begun for our 2014 Gala Night which will be held on Friday, 13 June, 2014.

BGGA is looking forward to this event and the opportunity to showcase our local region.



Manager of Queensland Seedlings, Ian Chapman, taking students from Proserpine State High School for a tour around the seedling facility in Bowen.



Be careful what you wish for!

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GUMLU GROWERS ASSOCIATION (BGGA)

In our last Fresh Source column, we were complaining about the lack of rain we have had in the Bowen and Gumlu region.

Our growers prayed for some rain and we most certainly got some, thanks to Cyclone Ita who dropped rain down the coast in mid-April causing heavy falls and localised flooding. While this created some setbacks, the region is resilient and back to business as usual!

BGGA staged its annual Industry Breakfast, Farm Tour and Gala Dinner on 13 June 2014 which turned out to be a great night. Queensland's Horticulture Industry Development Group (Horticulture IDG) moved its June meeting to Bowen so that they could attend these events.

The Horticulture IDG was setup by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) to progress issues relating to the future prosperity of the Queensland horticulture sector.

The Horticulture IDG is comprised of industry leaders and successful horticulture business people.

Over the years, BGGA have attempted to be more involved with the local schools, however it has not had the staff capacity to achieve this effectively.

Bianca Fullarton, BGGA Regional Workforce Development Officer has been working tirelessly in this space, building relationships with our local primary and high schools.

This has seen several initiatives developed, such as the Bowen State High School Teacher Tour which attracted 13 teachers. A Seed, Grow and Show is currently working with more than 120 Year 6 students to grow crops and then enter them into the Bowen Show.

These activities provide the opportunity to engage and educate local students so that they are aware of the career opportunities the local production horticulture industry presents.

At the end of May, BGGA attended a Careers Day at the local high school to promote the career opportunities in the horticultural industry.

This careers day was the first one with our new career display used to showcase the range of employment opportunities for people within the industry.



BGGA's career display at the Bowen State High School Career Day. The tractor was provided by Whitsunday Ag Services.





Seed, grow and show success

BY SARAH SIMPSON, BOWEN GÜMLÜ GROWERS ASSOCIATION (BGGA)

Bowen and Gümlü have felt a winter that was unseasonably chilly for North Queensland.

Like other parts of Australia who felt a cooler winter than normal, it was something that many North Queenslanders did not enjoy.

Currently in the region, Mango orchards are in flower, with some growers reporting even flowers at bloom, and others with a mixture of full bloom and bud swell.

BGGA would like to extend a big thank you to all involved in making our 2014 Industry Breakfast, Farm Tour and Gala Dinner a success. These events were well attended and we would like to thank all involved for making these events such a great occasion.

BGGA is also excited to announce that the pilot program of Seed Grow and Show, developed by Regional Workforce Development Officer, Bianca Fullarton, is to be run again in 2015.

This program was run in collaboration with Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The concept behind Seed, Grow and Show was to engage and educate year six primary school students about what goes into growing fruit and vegetables on a commercial scale.

The project aimed to utilise facilities already existing locally to ensure that students were exposed to real world horticulture.

The project was based at Bowen Research Station at the Delta, in Bowen, with local Queensland DAFF staff members providing both support and technical expertise to the project.

This project was run with two local primary schools; Queens Beach State Primary School and Bowen State Primary School. BGGA would like to acknowledge and thank the participating schools, who dedicated time and resources to this project.

BGGA are also seeking a sponsor for Seed, Grow & Show 2015 to help cover some of the costs associated with running the project, to ensure the project is sustainable into the future.

For further information, contact us on (07) 4785 2860.



Bowen State Primary School students harvesting their corn crop at Bowen Research Station.



Industry Breakfast and Farm Tour participants after the tour of the Koorelah Farms packing shed facility.



Articles

Bowen Independent, 24th August 2012

Workshop on pests a hit

BOWEN Gumlu Growers Association this week facilitated a workshop on using biological control for pests such as Silverleaf Whitefly, with presentations from CSIRO and the Research Station Staff in Bowen.

The workshop focussed on a wasp that is a native to the region and its potential to help manage Silverleaf Whitefly, which is a huge issue for growers during the season.

This biological wasp control is the Hayati, which in large numbers can support good management of the whitefly.

The workshop discussion was around the effectiveness of the wasp, crop rotation and using less crop protectants on a regular basis.

Growers in the Bowen and Gumlu region have been on a small scale using this tech-

Local bug to battle whitefly?

nique in "this is a bugs for bugs" approach as part of growers integrated pest management systems.

The workshop was well attended.

There were a number of growers and local crop monitoring companies present to gain further understanding on how this could be implemented area wide.

If growers are keen to know more about this approach to whitefly management, contact BGGA on 4785 2950.



CONTROL: The workshop on using biological control for pests such as Silverleaf Whitefly.

Picture Scybed

Industry support in dealing with serious tomato viruses in Bowen

In recent years, growers in the Bowen district have noticed a decline in the health of their tomato crops. Researchers at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry QLD (DAFFQ) in collaboration with the local industry have started to unravel the cause of this decline.

Recently, two viruses were found infecting Bowen tomato crops, Tomato yellow leaf curl virus (TYLCV) spread by Silverleaf whitefly (SLW) and Potato leaf roll virus (PLRV) spread by the green peach aphid (GPA). Surveys by DAFFQ staff in 2012 have found high incidences of both viruses in several locations within the area. TYLCV infections of susceptible varieties are known to have a severe impact on marketable yield, whereas PLRV impacts are unknown.

Diseases caused by viruses can't be controlled with pesticide and once infected with a virus, plants remain infected. This means effective management and prevention is the key. Given the widespread establishment of SLW and recent outbreak of green peach



Disease symptoms in Bowen tomatoes caused by TYLCV and/or PLRV. DAFFQ researchers are investigating what symptom type is caused by which virus.

aphid in Bowen the control of TYLCV and PLRV will be more challenging. Effective control will rely on a multi-pronged strategy most likely utilising an integrated approach of biological controls, strategic use of insecticides, resistant varieties, farm hygiene and best management practices implemented on an area-wide basis.

Recent advances in the understanding and control of some viruses such as TYLCV has also advanced. To test and study recent advancements, researchers at DAFFQ in collaboration with private industry and local tomato growers have been seeking funds to develop an area-wide management strategy for the Bowen district. Currently a range of industry stakeholders have pledged funding for the project, this includes BGGA, Monsanto, Kipiris Bros, Coles and Woolworths with others currently involved in discussions to commit funding to this project.

The combined results will be used to formulate the best strategy for area-wide management. The project team will work with growers to implement the strategy and monitor its effectiveness over the following 2-3 seasons. This project will provide immediate results in terms of knowledge of viruses and effective control options. The major impact of the project will be in the longer term with improvements to productivity expected within three years. These outcomes will not only benefit growers but all areas of the supply chain right back to consumers.

Bowen Independent, 23rd August 2013

Farmers roles as Reef Guardians

THE role of farmers in looking after the environment was explored at the annual Bowen Gumlu Growers Association annual industry breakfast at the Cove Restaurant last month.

The breakfast is a chance for BGGA to provide an overview of the horticulture industry in Bowen and Gumlu as well as the initiatives developed through the support of government, partners and members.

After outlining current projects the association is working on, including its Tomato Yellow Leaf Curl Virus project and alternative fruit fly management and market access for capsicums and tomatoes,

BGGA industry development officer Sarah Simpson turned her attention to the environment.

"Growers take great pride in what they do in looking after the environment," Ms Simpson said.

"They really are stewards of the land, yet they are not really recognised for the work that they do to look after the land, through programs like the Reef Rescue program which many growers in the region have adopted, and also the Reef Guardians Program."

The latter program was then outlined in detail by Reef Guardians Farmers Program manager Sarah Strutt.

Ms Strutt said the Reef Guardians program was developed in 2003 at a time when there was a lot of interest and angst in the community about zoning of the Great Barrier Reef.

Since being introduced it had grown from a school program to also involve councils, growers and fishers, all being active land stewards.

In regard to the Reef Guardians Farming Program, which is still in its pilot phase, Ms Strutt said it had been developed to recognise farmers taking positive action to manage their soil and water to reduce sediment loss and nutrient pesticide movement into their runoff and into the sea.

"It recognises farmers who are keeping their eco system healthy - healthy functioning ecosystems are necessary to maintain the processes that reduce sediment movement and nutrient loss, they are managing their energy efficiently, responsibly managing waste, being socially responsible, taking part in a whole community that's doing something about caring for their shared assets, and most importantly they are economically sustainable," she said.

"Through the pilot program 13 cane farmers have been recognised as Reef Guardians, six banana farmers, four graziers and two horticultural farmers - the Jurgens and Mulgowie, in a region spanning from Cairns to south of Rockhampton.

"Expectations and aspirations for the program are that it helps increase the understanding of and improving the image of farmers and farming practice in the wider community.

"That's a common thing that has come out.

"People in a lot of these industries feel uncomfortable about a perception that the wider community has about farming and the poor understanding they have.

"This program, in recognising good practitioners, is about providing a platform to showcase good practice and get that message out to the wider community as well as help influence a general raising of standards and understanding in the industries."

Ms Strutt said with the Whitsunday region poised for growth, there was great potential for it to be used as a positive platform for the horticultural industry putting its best foot forward, as light comes on this area.



LEFT: Burdekin Bowen Integrated Floodplain Management Advisory Committee has received a \$1.1 million grant through the Department of Resources Energy and Tourism to run a 'Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators' project to empower farmers to make informed decisions about energy efficiency and to look at options available to reduce their irrigation energy costs. Pictured at the official launch of the project at the Bowen PCYC recently was AgriTech Solutions' agronomist Steve Attard, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association's Sarah Simpson, BBIFMAC's project officer Gerry MacManus and DAFF's Elio Jovicich.
Pictures: Nadine O'Neill

Energy costs addressed

INFORMATION and help to reduce farm irrigation energy costs is being made available to Bowen irrigators.

BBIFMAC, the community NRM organisation for Burdekin and Bowen, has been successful in obtaining \$1.1 million in Australian Government funding through the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism.

The "Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators" project will be implemented over the next two years, with the objective of the program being to empower farmers to make informed decisions about energy efficiency of their individual enterprises and to look at options available for them to reduce their irrigation energy costs. The project will focus on a holistic approach to achieve energy efficiency gains for Australian irrigators using a multi-pronged approach.

That will include
1. Scrutiny of infrastructure to identify options and opportunities for efficiency gains;

2. A review of water use and application efficiencies using appropriate tools and technologies; and

3. A review of tariff options to best suit a particular enterprise.

The project will concentrate on BBIFMAC's footprint area of the Burdekin and Bowen, which has large areas of irrigated sugarcane and horticultural crops that use a range of irrigation methods and technologies.

It will also have a national focus by partnering with other irrigation and grower organisations in satellite areas such as Mackay, Bundaberg and Emerald.

A Technical Steering Committee, comprised of key industry stakeholders, was formed in August to oversee the direction of the project, which will develop and present relevant information to the target audience.

Trusted local industry agencies, such as Burdekin and Delta Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association



Pat and Ivan Garrod with DAFF's Heidi Wiggerhauser, centre, at the official launch of the Energy Efficiency Gains for Australian Irrigators Project, held at the Bowen PCYC recently.

and Growcom, will play an important role in engaging the farmers to gather and disseminate relevant information.

Launching the project in Bowen last month, BBIFMAC project officer Gerry MacManus said BBIFMAC would be disseminating letters of invitation through the local industry networks to invite farmers to participate in the on-farm energy assessments.

Further information about the project is available by contacting Gerry on 4783 4344.

Other speakers at the launch were Elio Jovicich (DAFF), who spoke about developing permanent bed systems in vegetables and Sarah Simpson from the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, who explained the role of BGGA and their current projects and activities.

Plans to boost Bowen's horticulture workforce

Nadine O'Neill

nadine.oneill@news.com.au

IT'S an exciting time for the Bowen horticulture industry, a workforce development working group has been formed to help the industry address regional workforce issues.

With Bowen's production horticulture industry producing close to \$400 million annually and employing more than 3200 employees, the Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Working Group is committed to co-ordinating an industry driven response to grow the region's production capacity further.

The group will address issues including the challenge of attracting new employees, keeping existing workers, improving skills, managing seasonal workforces and enhancing human resource practices in production businesses. It will also identify barriers to industry participation in higher education and training and take action to help the sector optimise and maintain an efficient, available workforce.

This includes having greater engagement with training and employment service organisations to improve delivery to industry, and to raise the profile of the horticulture industry to primary and high school students.

Working group spokeswoman Bianca Fullarton, who is the regional workforce development officer with Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, said she was happy with the initial support for the development of a strategic workforce development plan for the Whitsunday region.

"The working group is made up of both federal and state government organisations, growers, schools and local business organisations who will all be working together over the next two years to implement a range of strategies," Ms Fullarton said.



The newly formed Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development Working Group has set itself an exciting agenda this year, with one of its first tasks to roll out an Industry School Program aimed at raising the profile of the horticulture industry to primary and high school students. Pictured is the working group, standing from left, Bianca Fullarton, Sarah Limpus, Belinda Williams, sitting from left, Cass Richardson, Denise Kreymborg, Cheryl Williams, Bree Ross, Annmarie Resell and Chris Monsour.

Picture: Supplied

"Aims are to improve attraction and upskill and retain employees within the fruit and vegetable growing industry.

"The regional plan includes working with growers and staff and delivering a range of business and operational training programs over the coming months to build on current staff skills.

"The plan is multi-strategic and also includes a comprehensive industry school program to be rolled out in the coming weeks which will focus on raising the profile of the industry among both primary and high school students, establishing an annual fruit and vegetable growing competition, farms tours, teacher support, work experience opportunities, annual poster competition and up to date resources."

Whitsunday Marketing and Development economic development

manager Denise Kreymborg, who is a member of the working group, said the industry school program was an important initiative to expose students to the production horticulture industry.

"This is an essential program considering the industry is right on our doorstep," Ms Kreymborg said.

"I'm keen to see the group establish relationships with universities and encourage students to complete internships on farms so they are exposed to the industry and associated supply chain.

"It's important to understand that working in the production horticulture industry is not only about working in the field, it's about marketing, science, business management, technology, transport and logistics.

"We need to ensure people with those skill sets know there are career

pathways and opportunities across all aspects of the fruit and vegetable growing industry."

The formation of the workforce development working group and regional workforce development plan is the result of the Queensland Production Horticulture Workforce Development Plan 2013-15. The state government has committed \$1.2 million in funding for the industry-driven plan and its implementation.

Four regional workforce development officers have been placed within industry organisations in high-priority growing regions, including Ms Fullarton with the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, to cover the Whitsunday region. The other positions are located in the regions of far north Queensland, Wide Bay Burnett, Southern Downs, Granite Belt and Lockyer Valley.

Training for agribusinesses now available

BOWEN production horticulture organisations have been given an opportunity to take part in training to improve staff productivity and overall business profitability.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association has teamed up with the Department of Education Training and Employment and TAFE Queensland to deliver the training to small and medium businesses within the fruit and vegetable industry.

Training is to run over three days and will address topics including workplace relations, managing workforce planning and developing a workplace learning environment.

It is fully accredited and the units can be used to complete a Diploma of Management.

BGGA Regional Workforce development officer Bianca Fullarton said the training would be valuable.



Bianca Fullarton

"Labour is often the highest overhead cost for people within our industry so it's important that we are able to correctly manage, plan and improve our workforce," Ms Fullarton said.

"Employees are a major asset to any business and like

any asset, requires the correct care and attention.

"As a special bonus participants will have access to a consultant who will visit their business and assist to develop a tailored workforce development plan.

"What is so good about this training is that it has been heavily subsidised by the Department of Education Training and Employment and only costs \$150 per participant.

"The normal cost is \$1390. So not only is it a great price, but it's wonderful to have this training available within our region and I encourage all business owners and managers within the production horticulture supply chain to take advantage of it."

The training will be delivered at the Bowen Research Station and the first session is next Wednesday, February 26.

BSHS forges links with growers

WITH one of Australia's best production horticulture regions on its doorstep, Bowen State High School agricultural students are taking advantage of gaining invaluable insights into the industry, getting out in the field learning from the experts, the growers.

BSHS and Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) have joined forces to link the school's agriculture curriculum in with the 'real' work of the horticulture industry so students can get first-hand knowledge and information about the industry.

The strategy will see year eight and year nine students attend regular field trips to understand the different processes involved in the production of fruit and vegetables.

Last week saw year nine students visit Bowen Quality Seedlings and year eight students visit Koorelah Farm. BGGA regional workforce development officer Bianca Fullarton said the visits were insightful and interesting and the feedback from students was positive.

"So much of the work within the agricultural industry is hands on, so it's important that students are given the opportunity to get out of the class-



room and see the real thing," Ms Fullarton said.

"We are very lucky to have access to the fruit and vegetable industry in Bowen, we need to tap into the resources and information which it can offer.

"The students who visited Bowen Quality Seedlings witnessed the process and systems required to raise commercial seedlings.

"Owner Neville Travers-Jones gave a comprehensive tour of the seedling facility and discussed the seedling process, hygiene practices, pest and disease management, plant maintenance and quality assurance.

"He also discussed with students career opportunities available and the attributes needed to fulfil particular roles.

"Students who toured Koo-

relah Farm gained valuable insights from owner Leanne Born and shed manager Robbie Lee where they explained what happens when tomatoes come into the packing shed.

"They also talked about the large amount of research and development, and technology, which goes into the business.

"Throughout this year every year eight student will get the

opportunity to visit Koorelah to learn and understand the paddock to plate pathway."

Ms Fullarton said it was hoped farm tours would be integrated into the BSHS's agricultural curriculum. The partnership arrangement stems from the Whitsunday Production Horticulture Workforce Development plan and one of its aims is to build a col-

laborative partnership with schools and the industry.

Primary school students recently took part in a BGGA Seed Grow and Show day where students planted seeds, learnt about soil, insects and the science behind growing produce. The produce they planted will be harvested in time for students to enter in the Bowen Show in June.



LEFT: BSHS year eight agriculture students Brad Stringer, Dana Matton, Britney Bartlett and Jordan Fole found the tour of the packing shed at Koorelah Farm interesting. ABOVE: BSHS year nine agriculture students Zoe Brierley and Josie Rogers were fascinated to learn about how a nursery works and how the business is structured when their class toured Bowen Quality Seedlings.

Pictures: Nadine O'Neill

Local research delivers for tomato and capsicum market access

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

A local research project aimed at protecting local tomato and capsicum growers from losing market access has provided growers with an option to maintain market access.

In 2007, a research project 'Alternative Fruit Fly Control and Market Access for Capsicums and Tomatoes (VGO6028)' was funded at a time when two insecticides used in quarantine treatments to meet market access were under review by the Australian Pesticide Veterinary Medical Authority (APVMA).

This project received funding from Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), Queensland Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA).

The project focus was to look into alternative options for the control of Queensland fruit flies, listed as major quarantine pests to domestic and export markets.

By 2011 and 2012, APVMA had suspended or restricted the use of dimethoate and fenitrothion, on a number of fruit and vegetable crops.

This left the industry without two key insecticides used to maintain domestic and export market access, stopping the trade of fresh capsicums and tomatoes to New Zealand.

The region's proactive and

risk management approach to market access has provided dividends for local growers.

The research project that was initiated back in 2007, was highly successful with project results extremely well received by authorities for market access negotiation.

The results data collected over three years showed very low numbers of fruit fly in the Bowen/Gumlu region through the autumn and winter growing period.

A systematic sampling of fruit (30,000 of each commodity) covering a wide range of tomato and capsicum farms were dissected and examined with no fruit fly infestation found.

The alternative options tested in this study to control fruit fly were insecticides used on farm for the treatment of other pests.

Two insecticides, bifenthrin and methomyl were identified from the study, however were not registered for the control of fruit fly for tomatoes and capsicums.

This meant that the insecticides required approval.

Two new permit applications were submitted and approved by the APVMA to be used as a treatment for Queensland fruit flies within a market access protocol.

Many growers in the region use what's called an Interstate Certification Assurance (ICA) to move their produce be-

tween different states and territories of Australia.

The ICA system is a plant health certification based on quality management principles and administered by all states and territories.

The scheme enables a business to be accredited by a state or territory plant quarantine authority to issue plant health assurance certificates for its produce, allowing for the movement between states that accept particular ICAs.

This ICA scheme is in place to reduce the risk of spreading pests and diseases from an affected state, to an unaffected state.

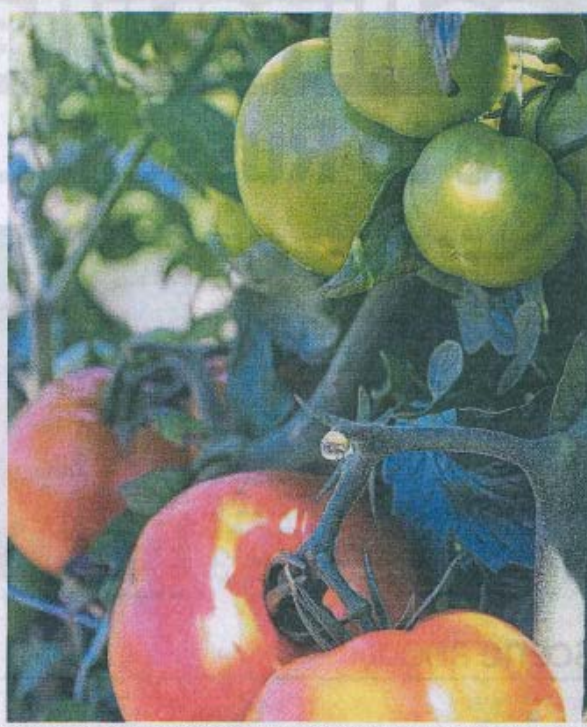
The research work conducted in Bowen and Gumlu has resulted in our very own market access protocol, ICA-48 Pre-harvest Treatment and Post-harvest Inspection of Tomato and Capsicum in the Bowen Gumlu region.

This was released in late August of 2013 and is available only for growers in the Bowen Gumlu region to use by their businesses.

ICA-48 is accepted by Tasmania, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

ICA-48 is tailored to our region, with it being specific to our locality and growing season.

While ICA-48 is now available for growers use, late 2013 finally saw the approval of the irradiation as a post-harvest



A local research project run to protect Bowen and Gumlu tomato and capsicum growers from losing market access has provided growers with an option to maintain market access. Picture: Supplied

treatment for Australian tomato and capsicum, a treatment that is accepted by New Zealand authorities.

This allowed growers to regain export market access to New Zealand.

While many are concerned about the costs associated with this treatment, it has regained a very important market for our region a step forward, not back.

It is important to however, spread the risk and have multiple pathways as the loss of dimethoate has proven how fragile the system is.

This is why BGGA will continue to dedicate time and effort to get ICA-48 on the agenda.

This protocol has benefits when it comes to pesticide use, as the ICA-48 pre-harvest sprays are used on farm for the treatment of several other

pests.

This could result in a reduction in the amount of insecticides needed to satisfy pre-harvest treatments associated with ICA requirements, reducing insecticide use and costs.

This is a win for both the consumer and producer.

While ICA-48, previously termed 'Bowen/Gumlu Systems Approach' still requires more work ahead to get this recognised as a viable export market treatment, BGGA is confident that this is a positive outcome for our region.

Outcomes to date are from an accumulation of a great deal of work and support from a range of people who could see this project as a worthy investment for our region.

Particular thanks is extended to Bowen DAFF staff who conducted the research, Biosecurity Queensland which

developed ICA protocol, HAL, BGGA and local growers who provided resources, dedicated their time and funded this project.

An information session will be held next Wednesday, March 19 at 2pm at Bowen Research Station to discuss this ICA-48 and its benefit to the region as well as cost savings associated with implementing this ICA.

Growers are encouraged to come along to this meeting to discuss this further.

Please contact Bowen Gumlu Growers Association industry development officer Sarah Simpson for further information on 4784 2860.

Helping growers prepare for extreme weather

Nadine O'Neill
nadine.oneill@news.com.au

BOWEN horticulture growers have had an opportunity to insights about practical ways in which they can prepare for natural disasters and the steps that can be taken for a faster recovery.

Peak horticulture body Growcom ran the first 'Whatever the Weather' workshop in Bowen earlier this month.

Workshop presenter Jane Muller, who is a senior research and policy officer at Growcom, said the devastating string of natural disasters that affected Queensland in the past few years was never far from growers minds.

"In advance of future events, plans need to be well and truly in place to ensure farming enterprises stay viable

and can continue to operate, given that a regular farm income may not be possible for months after a natural disaster, or possible even years based on past form," Ms Muller said.

"For horticulture businesses in risky regions, preparation for natural disasters needs to become a standard part of business management processes.

"From discussions today it's evident that a lot of people are aware of the risks and it's built in and embedded in the way they operate their farm.

"They're already doing things to manage risk to help them deal with severe windy conditions, a cyclone, or if a creek bursts its banks.

"So what we've tried to do is to crystallise people's thinking about these things in more specific terms, and to add a few

extra dimensions, especially in relation to protecting critical business information.

"Farmers have great strategies in place to protect physical infrastructure and resources, so we focused on how they can protect business information.

"Some things are as simple as storing and backing up all their critical records.

"Another area is dealing with supply issues. There are times when a bad weather event doesn't effect a local farm, but if the highway is cut north or south of them, they'll experience problems in getting their product to market.

"Therefore we spent some time talking about the benefits of having transport contingency plans in place."

Ms Muller said information resources, planning tools and templates, checklists and links



ABOVE: Katie Brackley (BrakPak) and Rhonda Jurgens (G&R Jurgens) with Growcom senior research and policy officer Jane Muller at the Whatever the Weather workshop held at Merinda Village Hotel.

Pictures: Nadine O'Neill

to references and other useful information would be added to the Growcom website that growers would be able to access. Workshops are also being held in Logan, Mareeba, Gatton, Boonah, Stanthorpe, Gayndah and Bundaberg.

Growcom held an extreme weather workshop for horticulture businesses earlier this month. Pictured are standing, Karole Schreiber (Whitsunday Produce), Anna Geddes (Growcom), Anthony Brick (Austsafe Super), sitting, Rachel McCarthy (Signet), Janelle Dobe (Pring Rural Pty Ltd).

Bowen Independent, 6th June 2014

New agritourism project to create market opportunities

A series of forums for producers, farmers, and growers are being held across the Mackay Isaac Whitsunday region this month as part of the Regional Food and Agritourism Project, which is being facilitated by the Queensland Government in partnership with Whitsunday Marketing and Development and Mackay Tourism.

The project, which aims to help local farmers, food manufacturers, tourism and hospitality operators and retailers across the region to collaborate, develop and create new market opportunities that span the paddock to plate value chain, was launched at the Mackay Ag-Trade-Life Expo from 23-24 May.

"We are happy to announce today that with the support of the Queensland Government, we have initiated a new collaboration that will map out and stimulate industry participation in a regional paddock to plate value chain," WMD economic development manager Denise Kreymborg said at the launch. "Our aim is to open the door and facilitate better cross-sectoral collaboration and stimulate new opportunities for business growth in the regional economy."

"The Regional Food and Agritourism Project will provide the catalyst for industry to collaborate in this exciting paddock to plate opportunity."

"We will develop a very targeted Strategic Action Plan for the Mackay, Isaac & Whitsunday region and help industry to get involved."

Mackay Tourism general manager Stephen Schwer said he was excited about the new initiative that will see the industry collaborate in developing new growth opportunities.

"More and more people want to know where and how their food is produced and the challenge for our food producers, retailers and chefs is how to take advantage of this growth opportunity locally, nationally and in world markets," Mr Schwer said.



Bowen Gumlu Growers Association's Sarah Simpson believes next week's Paddock to Plate Value Chain Forum will benefit growers, food producers, value adders and rural landholders, to hear about initiatives and opportunities that are available to develop agribusiness. The forum is being held at the Merinda Hotel's function room on Thursday, June 12 from 4-8pm.

Picture: Nadine O'Neill

ers, retailers and chefs is how to take advantage of this growth opportunity locally, nationally and in world markets," Mr Schwer said.

"This project aims to help farmers, food manufacturers, food service, tourism, hospitality and retailers to innovate and collaborate across a value chain to stimulate growth in

their own business and in the regional economy."

Rose Wright, managing director of Knowledge Transfer Services has been appointed as the project facilitator.

"We want to bring some new thinking and ideas to the region and help food producers to take advantage of new market opportunities" Mrs

Wright said.

"We know it can be challenging doing business in agriculture, food service and retail. We tend to focus on working in our own business or industry sector, but we know that it's through collaboration and looking at new opportunities that businesses grow and prosper."

"It doesn't matter if you're a small or large business, we need you to engage, share your insights, so we can map out the opportunities for growth and then help you access them."

Anyone interested in diversifying and value adding to your fresh produce, understanding what consumers

want and how you can deliver it, agritourism and Food tourism opportunities, new opportunities and markets for the agri/food sector, is encouraged to attend the project forum in Bowen next Thursday.

Venue and time details will be provided upon your RSVP, today, 4898 6800.

Growing Leaders program provides tools for success



Growing Leaders is a national program providing vegetable growers with the tools and understanding to positively impact their own futures, the future of their businesses and the future of the industry.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association Industry Development Officer (IDO) Sarah Simpson completed the 2013 program and believes it would be valuable for all vegetable growers.

"I would definitely recommend the program to others - the opportunities to learn about the industry are huge and to hear about peoples' experiences in the industry provided valuable insights," she said.

"The program involved a variety of activities and meetings with industry

leaders, designing our vision for the industry and industry tours. The three residencies were packed to the brim with activities.

"Since completing the program I was announced as a finalist for the Rising Star of the Year for the Ausveg Awards for Excellence. I think doing the Growing Leaders program definitely contributed to my nomination."

Sarah grew up on a family-owned and run dairy farm and then went on to study a Degree of Animal Science and Management (Hons) at the University of Melbourne.

"Prior to commencing my role at Bowen Gumlu Growers Association I was working for the University of Melbourne's School of Land and Environment as a Research Assistant. I've always been around agriculture, but the shift to horticulture was quite recent," she said.

"Being new to the vegetable industry, I found the course extremely beneficial. However, that being said I think anyone working in the industry would benefit."

Sarah decided to enrol for the course after a colleague recommended it to her.

"I was heavily encouraged to participate by a previous graduate of Growing Leaders. I saw it as a great opportunity to build my understanding of the industry and build my networks," she said.

Sarah said the first residency was the most challenging element.

"During our first residency we had to draft our vision and mission statements for the industry in groups. This was a challenging aspect as we had 14 strangers, all from various aspects of the industry, trying to work together and agree on one vision and mission statement," she said.

Sarah said the highlight of the program was the final Canberra residency.

"During this residency we met with people from a range of industry groups including APVMA, National Farmers Federation, CSIRO, Department of Agriculture, Plant Health Australia, HAL and AUSVEG. Meeting these people and learning how to network have benefited me in my role as an IDO because knowing who to talk to can be the most time consuming aspect of my job," she said.

The program is now in its fifth year and has a graduate population of more than 60 people of all ages and from all sectors of the industry including growing, processing, wholesale and extension.

"Our program had a good mix, made up of a range of participants from all areas of the horticulture industry," she said.

Growing Leaders is being delivered through funding from Horticulture Australia Ltd, and developed, managed and delivered by Rural Training Initiatives Pty Ltd.



Growcom's Anna Geddes, second right, with Queens Beach State School students Jemma Swain, Jorja Sanderson, Leah Street and Mack Mitchell, showing them how to test soil texture at the Future Leaders Eco Challenge at the Bowen research facility. *Picture: Nadine O'Mell*

Students go to class in the great outdoors

STUDENTS from Bowen Reef Guardian schools swapped the classroom for the outdoors to learn how local environmental actions can help protect the Great Barrier Reef.

Fifty-nine students took part in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority Reef Guardian Schools Future Leaders Eco Challenge last term, taking part in hands-on activities focused on improving the health and resilience of the Reef, and supporting healthy ecosystems.

They visited Gordon Beach to learn about coastal and beach biodiversity including plants and animals found at the front of the beach by the sea to the taller plants at the back of the beach. Students also participated in a beach clean-up and learned about the importance of keeping ecosystems free of litter.

This was followed by a visit to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Bowen research facility where students learned about soil health and the sustainable use of land for agriculture and horticulture.

Growcom's Anna Geddes talked about soil organisms, how they help soil fertility, which elements are essential for plant health and how soil physical properties affect water movement and nutrient



Bowen Research Facility operations manager Reg Andison explains the benefits of trickle tape irrigation to St Mary's student Zama Hunt.

uptake through the plant roots.

DAFF's Reg Andison and Sarah Limpus spoke about research trials on permanent planting beds and the benefits of using degradable plastic mulches and trickle tape irrigation to reduce water consumption and increase crop quality and yields.

A visit to Jamie and Melita Jurgens' farm wrapped up the busy day of activities where students learned about sustainable farming practices.

The Future Leaders Eco Challenge is a collaboration between schools and their local coastcare groups including Queens Beach Action Group, Gudjuda Rangers, Bowen Gumlu Growers Association, NQ Dry Tropics and Growcom.



Merinda State School student Lily Horspool was interested to learn about biodegradable plastic from DAFF research station's development horticulturalist Sarah Limpus.

Workplace Essentials seminar to be held in Bowen

IT has never been more important for employers to be clear about their responsibilities in their workplace.

Growcom is once again delivering information and support to horticultural growers in Queensland through a new Workplace Essentials Seminar program — and it will be held in Bowen on Wednesday, October 22 at the DAFF research facility.

An overview of Work Health and Safety provisions with a special emphasis on WorkCover will be a key focus of the seminar. Representatives from WorkCover Queensland will attend to assist growers to understand their obligations under WorkCover and to explore ways to streamline the processes, minimise disruption and absences and reduce premiums.

Growcom will also present some activities and outcomes from its pilot Live Well Farm Well health program which is being run in north Queensland. The program encourages growers and employees to review their lifestyle choices and seek ways to improve their general health — and make it fun at work.

Representatives from AustSafe Super will also be

attending the seminar to provide the lowdown on simplifying super.

The free seminar will run from 9.30am to 1.30pm.

Register online at www.growcom.com.au/workplace-essentials or request a registration form from Annabel at Growcom's Brisbane office on 3620 3844, or email ahutch@growcom.com.au.



Students invited to design poster that entices young people to find career on the farm

HIGH school students are being challenged to design a unique poster to attract young people to take up a career in the production horticulture industry.

It will be worth their while because an iPad is up for grabs for the winning entry, and an iPod Touch will be presented to second and third place getters. The winning entries will also get plenty of exposure — they will be displayed on the Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGGA) website and Facebook page.

The BGGGA is the brainchild of the competition and Regional Development Workforce officer Bianca Fullarton is confident the standard of entries will be high.

The brief allows students to highlight one career option or a range of career options within the horticulture industry.

"This is an important competition because we're looking for a poster that promotes a career within the production horticulture industry," Ms Fullarton said.

"The industry is very diverse which can provide an interesting, challenging and exciting career for those seeking work in the growing and harvesting of fruit and vegetables.

"Careers include being a farm hand, those who oversee a packing house or work within processing.

"It also includes working as an agronomist, entomologist, or in research and development, or transport and logistics.

"It is an exciting industry to be working in with plenty of innovation being constantly developed."

Highly regarded as one of the most effective forms of visual communication, posters are responsible for the development of the personal aesthetic. Posters will be judged on how effectively it conveys the brief, creativity, design and originality.

"We are hoping the posters provoke thought so the audience are eager and interested in learning more," Ms Fullarton said.

"We're encouraging the use



Bowen Gumlu Growers Association is running a competition, calling all secondary school students in the Whitsunday region to create a production horticulture career poster. BGGGA industry development officer Sarah Simpson and regional workforce development officer Bianca Fullarton with the iPad and iPod Touch that will go to the winning entries.

Picture: Nadine O'Neill

of photographs and/or illustrations that are the original works of the entrant, provided all persons in the photographs have given the appropriate consent.

"However we also have a selection of images available in the BGGGA Dropbox which can be accessed via our website," she said.

Posters are to be A3 size and

any computer software can be used, however the final poster is to be submitted in PDF format. Each entry must be created by one person only and there is a maximum of two entries per person.

The competition is open to all high school students enrolled in a secondary school within the Whitsunday Regional Council

area. Competition closing date is Friday, October 31 and the winners will be announced two weeks later on Friday, November 14. For further information telephone BGGGA on 4785 2860 or email rwdo@bowengumlu-growers.com.au. Completed posters and signed entry form need to also be emailed to this email address.

Biosecurity assessment

AFTER a disastrous start to their season, with widespread flooding, many local growers were concerned about how their season would pan out.

According to Bowen District Growers Association chairman Carl Walker, it hadn't been all bad.

"Some say they've gone all right, others will break even but there will be some who have suffered more than others," he said.

With the season now almost complete however, Mr Walker is urging growers to turn their attention to biosecurity, in light of the Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV) cases discovered recently in the Northern Territory.

He said if the virus spread to this region it could cost the industry \$150 million.

Turn to the Rural Leader on pages 9-15.

Biosecurity Queensland

BIOSECURITY Queensland is also calling for local growers to check their melon crops and report any signs of the Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus (CGMMV).

Acting Queensland Chief Plant Protection Officer Sarah Corcoran said Biosecurity Queensland was working with the Northern Territory Government to undertake tracing measures for Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus.

"It's important to control and minimise the spread of Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus because if it was to cross over the border, it could substantially impact the Queensland nursery, veg-

etable, and melon industries," Ms Corcoran said.

"Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus can result in the malformation, internal rotting, or discolouration of fruit, resulting in unsaleable produce.

"Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus is distinctive from other disease such as Papaya ringspot virus (PRSV-W) or Watermelon mosaic virus (WMV) because it causes internal discolouration and rotting of the flesh.

"Queensland is a major producer of watermelons, rockmelons and cantaloupe, with the state's melon industry worth approximately \$77 million dollars."

warning

Ms Corcoran said biosecurity was everyone's responsibility and growers played a key role in keeping Queensland's melon industry safe.

"Although there is no evidence to suggest Cucumber green mottle mosaic virus is present in Queensland, it's important growers remain vigilant by checking their crops and practising good on-farm hygiene.

"This virus is easily transmitted through plant material, mechanical means, seed, pollen, and water.

"It's important growers exercise caution when accepting or moving melon related products."



WorkCover obligations the focus of Growcom seminar

BOWEN horticulture growers have had an opportunity to learn more about their obligations under WorkCover and to explore ways on how to streamline the process, minimise disruption and absences and reduce premiums.

WorkCover draws from a panel of lawyers from around the state and lawyers who deal specifically with the agriculture sector were in Bowen last month as part of Growcom's Workplace Essentials Seminar program. Growcom Commercial Services manager Donna Mogg said the session was all about simplifying and dispelling myths

about WorkCover.

"The seminar has covered both the statutory structure and systems and the common law structure and systems," Ms Mogg said.

"We have got a very high rate of injuries and fatalities in this industry and those numbers are startling and alarming.

"There is also a degree of resistance by growers to engage with WorkCover because it's very much an employee focused system.

"The challenge for WorkCover is to explain that although they're there to assist employees with their statutory claims process, they are also there for employers.

"So it's been about giving growers an opportunity to learn how the processes work.

"We've also provided an

overview of workplace health and safety obligations and key messages to growers about the kinds of things they need to be doing.

"That includes record keeping, identifying hazards, looking at the risks associated with those hazards and applying control measures.

"Growers have to ensure people are well trained including their supervisors and managers. They have to live and breathe this stuff. It's not an add-on.

"Health and safety has got to form part of employers thinking in terms of their whole organisational planning—it's about embedding a safety culture into workplaces.

"Once this happens you see the rate of injuries and fatalities drop."

Growers also learned about

Growcom's Live Well Farm Well program, a pilot program that looks at ways growers can introduce more exercise into their farm workplace to improve the health of their workforce, boost productivity and have fun at the same time.

"In essence it's about bringing wellness and health back into the workplace health and safety component of operations," Ms Mogg said.

"We know that healthy workers are productive workers—it sounds like a cliché but it is true.

"The outcomes from the program are staggering. We've been working with a number of farms across 40 work sites throughout north Queensland.

"There are two elements to the program, the first is the Eat It program which is delivered by

Diabetes Queensland and the Heart Foundation, to understand how to read the nutrition information on packages. It's also about the Swap It programs, swapping for a healthier option.

"The other element is about increasing activity and there are a number of ways of doing this including the 10,000 steps program, or stopping for a few minutes several times a day to do some sort of activity.

"It doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming. But it shows as an employer that you are committed and care for your workers and support them," she said.

Growcom hopes to attract more funding to roll out the Live Well Farm Well program throughout other parts of the state over the next 12 months.

LEFT: Camilla Muller, of Pacific Red Produce, and Growcom Commercial Services manager Donna Mogg at the WorkCover seminar. Picture: Nadine O'Neill

Soil carbon workshop

GROWCOM and NQ Dry Tropics are presenting a free workshop in Bowen next week on the benefits of building soil carbon in horticulture for improved soil health, productivity and profitability.

Organiser Lene Knudsen from Growcom said that growers could learn some valuable tips from the speakers about ways to improve soil health and potentially save on expensive crop inputs in the process for a better bottom line.

"I will also discuss the latest developments in carbon farming and the Federal Government's Direct Action policy.

"All farmers and advisers are

welcome. You don't need to be a member of Growcom to attend," Ms Knudsen said.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday at the DAFF Bowen Research Facility from 9am until noon, followed by a free lunch.

Speakers include NQ Dry Tropics' Diana O'Donnell — 'Improve your soil health', QDAFF Peter Deuter — 'Best management practice for carbon farming in horticulture' and Growcom's Lene Knudsen — 'Latest news on carbon farming'.

To RSVP please contact Growcom on 3620 3844 or email [reception @growcom.com.au](mailto:reception@growcom.com.au).

Newsletter Examples

All newsletters can be provided by BGGA upon request. Due to the large file size three newsletters have been provided to demonstrate content.

Newsletters contain a range of information from IDO Updates, R&D Information, minor use permits information, production information, market access information, biosecurity, pest and disease information, general industry media releases.



Fruit & Vegetable INSIDER

in this issue >>>

⇒ **Employers wanted**

⇒ **YouTube competition**

⇒ **Agvet solutions**

⇒ **Industry Development Manager Update**

⇒ **News from Growcom**

⇒ **Permits**

⇒ **Economic Brief**

⇒ **Become a member**

Vegetable growers help direct over \$10 million of levy fund investment

Vegetable growers and industry leaders from across the country met this week in Melbourne to take part in Design Team meetings to guide over \$10 million of vegetable levy fund investment over the next twelve months.

"The recently published vegetable industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) recommended the development of three Design Teams to help direct Research and Development (R&D) levy investment with matched funds from the Australian Government, in line with new industry Strategic Priorities," said AUSVEG Design Team Coordinator, Courtney Burger.

AUSVEG is the National Peak Industry Body for Australia's 7,000 vegetable growers.

"The high calibre of members participating in the meetings ranged from vegetable growers, to supply chain members and retailers. It was this wealth

of knowledge and experience that enabled the meetings to be very productive and provided an unprecedented level of foresight and direction for the industry," said Miss Burger.

The Design Teams met earlier this week from 6-8 August, to provide guidance on the investment of levy funds by developing R&D projects which address information gaps and will help direct the industry towards a more viable and profitable future.

Each of the three Design Teams aligns to one of the Strategic Priorities of the SIP: 'Consumer Alignment', 'Market and value chain development' and 'Farm Productivity, Resource Use and Management'.

"On Monday the Consumer Alignment Design Team met to discuss what future research needs to be conducted in order to provide vegetable growers with a deeper insight into the mindset of Australian consumers. This will enable growers to deliver products that best meet consumers' expectations, bringing more value to customers and greater profit margins to growers."

"The Market and Value Chain Development Design Team met on Tuesday to determine how the industry R&D program can help to open new markets and

expand existing markets for Australian vegetables and to help growers add value to their business within both the domestic and international markets."

"The last group to meet was the Farm Productivity, Resource Use and Management Design Team, which focused on what research is needed to give growers the tools to improve on-farm production efficiencies, by addressing issues such as the rising costs of inputs including labour, the effects of variable climates, water and soil shortages, and emerging pests and diseases."

"These meetings are a prime example of vegetable growers successfully working with industry and the supply chain to have their say in the investment of the vegetable levy and the future direction of the industry," said Miss Burger.

The meetings were facilitated by AUSVEG in conjunction with Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

ENDS

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Bowen Gumlu Growers
Association Inc.
August 2012 Edition

Low GI vegetables are a wonder food for people with diabetes

This week is National Diabetes Week and research from Diabetes Australia has shown that sufferers can reduce their average blood glucose levels and in effect reduce their risk of developing diabetes-related complications, by eating a diet rich in low glycemic index (GI) foods, such as some vegetables.

“All vegetables are an invaluable part of a healthy diet, but low GI vegetables play a key role in helping people living with diabetes manage their condition,” said Senior Communications Officer, Courtney Burger.

AUSVEG is the national Peak Industry Body for Australia’s 9,000 vegetable and potato growers.

“People living with diabetes can benefit greatly by taking the time to review and select vegetables with a low glyce-

mic index (GI), which cause a slower rise in blood glucose and insulin levels,” said Miss Burger.

“Some examples of low GI vegetables include: Asparagus, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery and lettuce,” said Miss Burger.

The glycemic index (GI) ranks carbohydrate levels on a scale from 0 to 100 according to the extent to which they raise blood sugar levels after eating. Low GI foods have a GI less than 55, intermediate foods are between 55 and 70, and high GI foods are greater than 70.

“There is no known cause of type 1 diabetes and type 2 may be caused by a mix of environmental and genetic factors; however, in both cases dietary monitoring is crucial in managing the condition,” said Miss Burger.

“There is ongoing Research and Development (R&D) of the GI of vegetables and one product which reflects this is the low GI Carisma potato; a vegetable which usually has a high GI ranking.”

“Another interesting way to combat the usually high GI of a potato is to serve it as a cold potato salad with a vinaigrette dressing, as potatoes which have been chilled and are served with an acidic dressing, have a lower ranking.”

“Low GI vegetables are an excellent option for people with diabetes; however, all vegetables -regardless of GI - should make up a large proportion of the diets for all Australians, with a recommended five serves per day,” said Miss Burger.

ENDS

MEDIA CONTACT: Courtney Burger – Senior Communications Officer, AUSVEG Phone: (03) 9822 0388, Mobile: 0439 784 890, Email: courtney.burger@ausveg.com.au

Increased Consumption of Fruit and Vegetables is part

At the start of Diabetes Week 2012, peak industry body Growcom said Queensland horticulture producers were growing part of the solution to the problem of increased diabetes in Queensland.

CEO Alex Livingstone said that Queenslanders could taste how good it was to choose healthy food options in King George Square, Brisbane, this week where free apples grown in Stanthorpe were being given to people visiting the Diabetes Queensland’s display designed to raise awareness of diabetes.

“Apples are a delicious and satisfying low GI snack-on-the-go and Queenslanders are fortunate to have such a high quality apple growing district at Stanthorpe,” said Mr Livingstone.

Mr Livingstone said it was distressing to think that three out of every four people surveyed during National Diabetes Week last year were shown to be at intermediate or high risk of type 2 diabetes and since that time 23 000 Queenslanders have been diagnosed with this chronic

condition for which there is no cure.

He said that health experts showed the way to prevent or delay contracting Type 2 diabetes was through ensuring a nutritious diet, engaging in regular exercise and maintaining a healthy weight.

“Making the decision to increase your consumption of fruit and vegetables daily in place of fats and high kilojoule foods is a valuable step in the right direction for your health,” Mr Livingstone said.

“Queensland horticulture producers grow some of the best fruit and vegetables in the country so Queenslanders will be rewarded for their change to better health with great quality and taste. Aussie apples grown in Stanthorpe are one example.”

Growcom also welcomed the establishment of the Queensland Health Media Club (www.healthmediacub.com.au) which will feature State Health Minister Lawrence Springborg talking about the government’s preventative health plans

at its inaugural function this Thursday lunchtime.

“The aim of the club is to promote preventative health measures by fostering communication between members of the media regularly working on health stories and the health sector researching these issues,” Mr Livingstone said.

“It will be a positive change to be hearing and reading stories about how Queenslanders can improve their health based on the latest science rather than stories about hospital queues and exploding health budgets.

“We look forward to hearing how the Queensland Government will get behind the promotion of positive health messages to Queenslanders which in the long run is a far less expensive strategy for health departments than dealing with ever increasing rates of chronic disease.”

More information about National Diabetes Week (July 8-14) is available at www.diabetesqld.org.au.

The Clean Technology Innovation Program is open for applications.

The Clean Technology Innovation Program is a competitive, merit-based grant program. It provides funding to support applied research and development, proof of concept and early stage commercialisation activities to develop new products, processes and services in the areas of clean energy, low-emission technology and other energy-efficient technologies. The program offers grants from \$50,000 to \$5 million, and will fund up to 50 per cent of eligible expenditure on a 1:1 funding basis. Guidelines and calculators can be found on the [AusIndustry website](#), or for more information, contact Kay on 4721 6649 or myself on 4721 0451.

The Clean Technology Innovation Program is in addition to the **Clean Technology Investment Program**, which provides grants for investments in energy efficient capital equipment and low emission technologies, processes and products to eligible [manufacturers](#) through a competitive, merit-based grants process. 13 businesses have been awarded grants, worth \$8.1 million, from the [Clean Technology Investment Programs](#) to help reduce their energy bills. The initial 13 grants will help businesses install over \$23 million of energy efficient equipment.

Entries into the **Australian Innovation Challenge** are open now. The inaugural awards last year uncovered and championed inspired innovations created in universities, top laboratories and backyard sheds across Australia. With a prize pool of \$70,000, categories are:

- Minerals and energy
- Health
- Environment, agriculture and food

- ICT
- Community services
- Education
- Manufacturing

Backyard Innovation

Covering ideas ranging from clever domestic appliances to more efficient motors, this category is open to the general public. The winner will take out a \$10,000 cash prize.



All entries close on August 12, 2012. Visit www.theaustralian.com.au/innovationchallenge for more information.

Kind regards
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Online Newsletter: [AusFocus](#)
ABN 74 599 608 295

Prepare for the future at GrapeConnection 2012

That's the focus of this year's GrapeConnection table grape industry conference and all growers are strongly encouraged to attend.

Held at the Stamford Plaza, Brisbane on 30-31 August this conference is aimed at getting you thinking about and preparing for the future.

The conference will include updates and presentations on topics such as:

- Packaging – what does the future hold? Lisa Cork from Fresh Produce Marketing will outline trends and opportunities for the future
- Business Planning – how can you prepare for the future? Phil Currey, a certified management consultant with extensive experience in the challenges that horticultural businesses face, will speak of the tools and strategies you can put in place to help secure your business into the future
- Increasing consumption – strategies and ideas to grow your industry
- Chemical access and pest update from Growcom's Janine Clark, Pest Management Industry Development Officer
- Mining – what you need to know
- Field tour of AMCOR manufacturing site and other supply chain partners in Brisbane.

GrapeConnect Committee member Sue Allan said that "the conference program is very attractive to early season growers and marketing partners but the topics due to be discussed are relevant to all Australian growers. Everyone wants to grow their industry and plan for a more secure future. So we hope to see you in sunny Queensland!"

To reserve a ticket, please contact Conference Coordinator Julie Petty on P: (07) 3846 6566 or M: (0458) 004198 or E: supplychain@avocado.org.au

Growcom urges Premier to tackle farm electricity costs too (29.06.12)

Growcom, has welcomed Premier Newman's comments chastising electricity providers who make large increases to domestic power costs, but has called on him to take action against the Queensland Competition Authority's recommendations that on-farm electricity use should increase in price by as much as 72 per cent.

Growcom CEO Alex Livingstone said that these enormous price increases were being applied to growers who are already very efficient.

"Growers who drip-feed irrigate at night using Tariff 62 will face a 10 per cent increase in the next 12 months, followed by a 62 per cent increase when Tariff 62 is abolished next year and growers are forced on to Tariff 22," Mr Livingstone said.

"Transition from Farming and Irrigation Tariff 65, which is also being abolished, to Tariff 22 will increase the cost to farmers by 39 per cent over two years. These increases are in addition to those due to the carbon price of approximately ten per cent," he said.

"The Queensland Government has the power to accept or reject the QCA's recommendations on these tariffs. We call on the Premier to demonstrate that he is as concerned for the cost of living for farmers and their businesses as he is for electricity users in Brisbane by acting to stop these enormous increases to farmers who cannot simply pass these increased costs down the line."

For comment, contact Alex Livingstone on 07 3620 3844 or 0418 786 413. Issued by Chris Walker, Communications Manager on 07 3620 3864 or 0408 014 843

Growcom report shows grim impact of carbon price on horti- cultural farms (03.07.12)

Growcom has released a report outlining the impact of the carbon price on fruit and vegetable growers.

The report presents the first detailed economic modelling of the carbon price in the horticulture sector, which has been ignored in other analyses. It draws together the results of a project which included economic modelling of six case study farms to examine how the carbon price will flow through the supply chain and affect the farms' bottom lines.

Growcom Policy Manager David Putland said the results were a wake-up call for both growers and policy makers.

"While agricultural businesses aren't directly involved in the carbon price mechanism, they will be affected by increases to the costs of important inputs – such as electricity, fertiliser, chemicals and packaging," Mr Putland said.

"For the six farms studied, the carbon price will increase farm input costs by between \$5000 and \$42 000 per year in 2012, which equates to between 0.3 and 0.8 per cent of gross farm income. By 2020, input costs may have increased by between about \$7000 and \$56 000, or up to 0.94 per cent of gross income," he said.

"Given the typically low profit margins of most fruit and vegetable farms, these cost increases represent a significant reduction in farm profits. Of the six farms used as case studies in this report, three were already oper-

ating at a loss during the period of analysis."

Mr Putland said that as expected, the largest impact on fruit and vegetable farms would result from the increased cost of electricity (estimated at about 10 per cent) which powers cold storage facilities on farm and irrigation. "Some larger fruit and vegetable producers are facing increases of several thousand dollars per month, solely as a result of the carbon price. Of course, electricity prices will actually increase by considerably more than that because of other factors in addition to the carbon price," Mr Putland said.

"Most growers will be unable to pass these increased costs on because they have little control over the prices they receive. While the Government has provided assistance measures to households and polluting industries, there is relatively little assistance available to growers."

The report also includes information on how growers can minimise the effects of the carbon price on their businesses. To assist growers to assess the impacts on their businesses, the project also created a farm carbon price calculator that can estimate the cost increases based on simple farm budget data.

The project was funded by growers' levies matched by the federal government through Horticulture Australia Ltd.

Government extends clean up and recovery grant schemes

The Newman Government has announced a four-month extension to the closing date for recovery grants schemes introduced in response to the disasters of 2011 and 2012. Applications will now be accepted until 31 October 2012.

The schemes provide grants of up to \$25 000 to eligible primary producers, small business and not-for-profit organisations to assist with clean-up and recovery activities.

The schemes to be extended to 31 October 2012 are the:

- Special Disaster Flood Assistance (November 2010 to January 2011) Scheme

- Special Disaster Floods (November 2010 to January 2011) Non-profit Organisations' Assistance Scheme
- Special Disaster Tropical Cyclone Yasi Assistance Scheme
- Special Disaster Western Queensland Tropical Low 2012 Assistance Scheme.

Anyone looking to apply for this assistance should contact QRAA on 1800 623 946. More information is available on the QRAA website www.qraa.qld.gov.au.

Queensland Water, the researchers will provide a time-line of flood activity in the south east Queensland region extending back thousands of years using state-of-the-art dating techniques. The project seeks to identify those settlements most at risk of flood.

The big flood: will it happen again?

If we could better predict the frequency of extreme flood events, would we be better prepared to safeguard human lives and settlements?

That is the question to be considered by Griffith University researchers in a project which will be funded by a \$400 000 grant under the Australian Research Council Linkage Projects scheme.

In collaboration with the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management and South East Queensland region extending back thousands of years using state of the art dating techniques. The projects seeks to identify those settlements most at risk of flood.

Processed Vegetable Imports

Australian vegetable growers have expressed dismay at new statistics released this week showing that processed vegetable imports have skyrocketed in the past two years.

"These figures demonstrate an alarming trend that is getting worse, year on year. The volume of processed vegetable imports in this country has reached worrying heights, and measures must be taken immediately to ensure that Australian vegetable producers are provided with a proper level playing field," said AUSVEG Chief Executive Officer, Mr Richard Mulcahy.

AUSVEG is the National Peak Industry Body representing around 9,000 of Australia's vegetable and potato growers.

The 'Composition of Trade Australia 2011' statistics, compiled by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), show that imports of pro-

cessed fruit and vegetable products between 2009/10 to 2011/12 rose by as much as \$119 million, which DFAT has partly attributed to the high Australian dollar.

"The Australian vegetable industry is now more than ever facing fierce competition from overseas markets and the pressure is mounting on growers to reduce their costs and operate on even slimmer profit margins," said Mr Mulcahy.

"If Australia continues to import vegetable products in the way that these results indicate, then the viability of Australian growers will be seriously jeopardised."

"While growers and processors here are committed to producing the high quality products that Australian households have come to expect, if the level of imported products that we are currently seeing increases

much further then it will be a grim future for these industries indeed," said Mr Mulcahy.

Mr Mulcahy said that time was of the essence for the development of strong policies that will help growers to combat escalating input costs and be better equipped to compete with overseas competition in the market.

"I strongly encourage policymakers in Canberra to examine the latest DFAT figures and to consider measures that will help reverse this trend," said Mr Mulcahy.

Australia's food imports were shown to have largely been sourced from New Zealand, with producers in the United States, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia also contributing to the rise in Australia's imported food products.

WHITSUNDAYS MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT LTD

MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

16 July 2012

The merger between Tourism Whitsundays and Enterprise Whitsundays is now official, with ASIC registering 'Whitsundays Marketing and Development Limited' as a new company last week.

Acting Chief Executive Officer Danielle Seymour said the registration of the new company was the final step in the 12 month process.

"We are very excited to introduce 'Whitsundays Marketing and Development Ltd' to the Whitsundays community, your one stop shop for the development of the region's economy," Ms Seymour said.

"Our economy is diverse, and full of opportunity, from tourism which is the lifeblood of Airlie Beach and the islands, agriculture and horticulture through Proserpine and Bowen, and west to the mines in Collinsville and beyond," she said.

"Having the one organization to manage the opportunities to grow the economy and market the various aspects of the region will be of huge benefit to the local community, and we are glad to be able to do that under the Whitsundays Marketing and Development Ltd banner moving forward,"

"There will be a gradual changeover from our previous Tourism Whitsundays and Enterprise Whitsundays corporate branding, so please bear with us as we transform to Whitsundays Marketing and Development Ltd,"

"With two such well known companies it will be an adjustment for all of us to move to the new name, but the community shouldn't be concerned about losing our marketing identity – '74 Island Wonders' will still be our tourism marketing brand, and 'Made in the Whitsundays' and other regional brands will stay – it is just our corporate identity that is changing."

The Whitsundays Marketing and Development Ltd office is located at 1/5 Carlo Drive, Cannonvale and all staff retain the same contact details.

- ENDS -

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES, CONTACT:

Danielle Seymour, Acting CEO

Ph: 07 4948 5904 or 0417 765 736

Email: communications@tourismwhitsundays.com.au

New Environmental Website for Vegetable Growers

Today, AUSVEG launched a new website to assist Australian vegetable growers to monitor and improve their environmental performance – www.enviroveg.com.

AUSVEG is the National Peak Industry Body representing Australia's 9,000 vegetable and potato growers.

The new website was launched at the New South Wales Farmers' Association in Sydney by Mr John Lloyd, the Chief Executive Officer of Horticulture Australia Ltd and will provide AUSVEG with greater insight into the environmental performance of the industry.

AUSVEG Environment Coordinator Mr Jordan Brooke-Barnett said the new website would bring the Program into the 21st century and provide greater ability for growers to compare environmental performance against their peers.

"The EnviroVeg website gives AUSVEG the ability to analyse the environmental

performance of growers in areas such as energy management, water use and soil nutrition," said Mr Brooke-Barnett.

The EnviroVeg Program was established in 2000, and provides growers with information and tools to allow them to complete an annual self assessment of their environmental performance across nine key areas of their operations.

"Our new website will collect data from the self assessments and present detailed results showing how participating growers are performing at the national and state levels, or even by crop type and farm size," said Mr Brooke-Barnett.

"Individual growers can then compare their annual score against these averages and put plans in place to improve their environmental performance."

The EnviroVeg Program has grown rapidly in recent years to over 300 growers,

comprising of almost 50,000 hectares of vegetable growing land.

"With environmental issues becoming increasingly prominent and costs of farm inputs such as energy rising, we expect the strong uptake to continue as growers look to use alternative environmentally-friendly methods to reduce their production costs," said Mr Brooke-Barnett.

The EnviroVeg Program is funded by Horticulture Australia Limited using the National Vegetable Levy and matched funds from the Australian Government.

For further information visit <http://ausveg.com.au/enviroveg/programs.htm>

ENDS MEDIA CONTACT: Jordan Brooke-Barnett, Environment Coordinator, AUSVEG Email: jordan.brooke-barnett@ausveg.com.au Phone: (03) 9822 0388, Mobile: 0404 772 308, AUSVEG website www.ausveg.com.au

Industry Development Manager: Update on activities

One on one growers and farm visits

Over the past few weeks the Industry Development Manager (IDM) has been visiting growers updating them on some of the key initiatives and challenges for the industry. BGGGA has been proactively working in this space to support growers. It has also given growers an opportunity to inform the IDM of some of their industry issues at a local level. Some of the key topics discussed were Reef Rescue Initiative, Market Access Protocol for Bowen, ICA-26 requirements and registration and the new Bowen Gumlu Growers Association website.

ICA-26 Accreditation Issues

An issue brought to the attention of the IDM while on farm visits was the new biosecurity ruling that if a farming property was not directly next to the packing shed it had to be registered separately. After a discussion with the local Biosecurity Officer it was clear there was much confusion on the issue.

The IDM asked for clarification on the following:

During the workshop held in Bowen for ICA-26 & 38 there were questions raised regarding registration for ICA-26 & 38 around the blocks, properties and area that could be covered under one registration. Some farms in Bowen are covered under one registration with multiple blocks, properties and areas across Bowen on the same pre-harvest treatment and some farms are having to be registered multiple times as they are seen differently even though they are the same as the above mentioned who are only registered as one.

Examples of situations in Bowen and Gumlu:

Farm A: Has properties around their shed, across the road, across

town – they are registered under one registration

Farm B: Has properties surrounding their shed and one directly across the road – they have been told they have to have two separate registrations

Farm C: Has properties around their shed, across the road and down the same road a bit – they have been told to register three separate properties

Farm D: IS the same as farm A and they have to register all 6 or 7 properties separately

There are a number of Farm A, Farm B, Farm C and Farm D in Bowen & Gumlu which means there is both confusion and frustration. All the farms have the same pre harvest treatment and the same pickers etc.

Since my request for clarification Biosecurity Qld had a meeting to discuss the issue and at this stage only in Bowen and Gumlu will growers only need one accreditation. We are waiting on formal clarification however it looks good for growers across this region.

DAFF Hort2020 – legislation, policy and regulation working group

Recently the IDM was a part of an update on the position of the newly formed government on the Hort2020 program. After advice from the steering committee and members of the different working



groups the new Minister John



McVeigh has decided to continue with the Hort2020 program but may rebadge it and change some of the priority areas. As a group we will continue to work through some of the major issues facing the industry across legislation, policy and regulation.

New Extension Position at the Bowen Research Station

Over the past two years the IDM has been working with the State Government to encourage them to put an extension position in the research station in Bowen. This will now be coming to fruition with candidates for the position being interviewed recently. The IDM was on the interview panel and felt there were some excellent applicants for the position. Government has committed to funding the position even though there are job cuts across government in Queensland.

New Strategic Investment Plan Design Team Meetings

The vegetable industry's newly created 'Design Teams' have met for the first time in Melbourne last week.

The Design Teams have been created as part of the vegetable indus-

IDM Update on activities cont.....

try's new Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which has consolidated the nine existing Working and Advisory Groups into three Design Teams. The teams align to each of the three new strategic investment priorities:

- Consumer Alignment
- Market & Value Chain Development
- Farm Productivity, Resource Use and Management

The Design Teams are comprised of growers, experts and other leading industry stakeholders from around the country, bringing together a wealth of knowledge and experience that will ensure that future R&D projects best meet the needs of the industry.

By designing projects for tender that align with the SIP, a more targeted investment of levy funds will occur in future, in order to address the priority areas identified in the SIP.

The meetings were also attended by representatives from AUSVEG and Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL), including Miss Courtney Burger, who has recently moved into the newly created position at AUSVEG of Design Teams Coordinator.

The Bowen IDM is a member of the Farm Productivity, Resource Use and Management design team.

Market Access Protocol Specific to Bowen and Gumlu

With the newly formed LNP government in place BGGA was unsure if the previous government commitment to the market access protocol for Bowen and Gumlu. The IDM met with the new Minister for DAFF John McVeigh to discuss this issue and wrote a letter of concern outlining this and other challenges for the region. The Minister noted our concerns and committed to the previous governments terms for Bowen and Gumlu to have an area specific market access protocol for management of fruitfly. This means that Biosecurity Qld will continue to work

towards gaining market access on behalf of the Bowen and Gumlu growers.

Biosecurity has also recently completed a report to be given to Biosecurity Australia to confirm the research collected and collated over the past 5 years in Bowen and Gumlu to support market access into New Zealand. BGGA, Biosecurity Qld and Biosecurity



Australia can now continue to negotiate terms with New Zealand to try to gain market access.

Scoping project for Workforce Development in Bowen and Gumlu

Further to the meeting held recently



with DAFF Q to put together a strategic scoping project that will support gaining future funding for this key challenge for the horticulture industry, the IDM met with Selwyn Snell from Horticulture Australia Limited to make sure Workforce Development was still on the agenda nationally and with the State Government.

Regional Development Australia – Building Rural Futures Statement

The IDM is on the Building Rural Futures Statement steering committee to continue to drive the key challenges for the industry at a national level. In many instances Horticulture is not seen as a key economic driver for the region and sometimes overlooked in these types of processes. One of the key standouts from the meeting was the push for foreign investment into agriculture. The IDM expressed concern at this strategy and asked that horticulture not be included in this type of investment attraction. The IDM explained that the National Food Plan outlines how important it is for there to be food security and to maintain a sustainable future for Australian owned farming enterprises.

AusIndustry Clean Technology Meeting

The IDM and BGGA trainee attended a meeting with Kay Strong a representative of Ausindustry this week. Although there is funding available none of it seemed to be able to support grower's which was expressed to the representative. In recent discussions with AUSVEG there is a big push for Horticulture to be included in the food foundry clean technology program.

Reef Guardian Forum

The IDM attended the Reef Guardian Forum in Townsville this week to go over Governance Structures, Review and Update the program, significant inclusions, new priorities and more. The program from a federal government perspective has been successful with further funding being put forward to encourage more growers to be a part of the program and allow the continuation of the overall program.

Vegetable industry kept in the dark on new Biosecurity laws

The Australian vegetable industry has slammed the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) for the grossly inadequate consultation period it has provided horticulture industries in its rush to review its complex new Biosecurity legislation.

"Australian industry is being kept in the dark about DAFF's new legislation to amend current biosecurity laws, and is trickling out chapters at a snail's pace. There's no explanation as to why DAFF is behaving this way but this feels like policy on the run," said AUSVEG Public Affairs Manager, Mr William Churchill.

AUSVEG is the National Peak Industry Body representing Australia's 9,000 vegetable and potato growers.

DAFF is seeking to reform Australia's current biosecurity system, which will include overhauling the Quarantine Act 1908.

"Updates to old legislation are important, but it is reckless and irresponsible to rush industry consultation when it will be industry that bears the brunt of any mis-

takes that happen," said Mr Churchill.

Beginning July 4 2012, DAFF has progressively released sections of its new Biosecurity legislation for feedback, with final submissions on the proposed laws due by 10 August 2012. With just days remaining to comment, industry still hasn't received three key chapters of the legislation.

"25 per cent of the Bill hasn't been released yet. The Department of Agriculture seems to run its own race. Its bureaucrats have displayed absolute contempt for industry and the community, the very people they are there to serve."

"A significant shakeup of DAFF is required and they need to be brought back into line. Bureaucrats who believe that treating industry in this manner have no place within the public sector," said Mr Churchill.

DAFF Biosecurity has been developing its new draft Biosecurity legislation with state and territory governments since 2008, however industry input in this process has been minimal or relatively restricted.

"Given the deplorable level of consultation on Biosecurity reforms, and DAFF's dismissive attitude towards importing potatoes from New Zealand, one can only assume that this is a department that struggles with accountability," said Mr Churchill.

"We are very fortunate in Australia to be free from many of the devastating pests and crop diseases found in other countries, so we must be absolutely sure that any changes made to existing Biosecurity laws are given proper consideration by the industries that these changes will affect the most," said Mr Churchill.

"It is just complete madness to not allow sufficient time for industries to provide valuable input, when they will be heavily affected by the legislation," said Mr Churchill.



National Farmers Federation News

Coalition proposes land register

On Friday, the Federal Coalition released a discussion paper into foreign investment in Australian agriculture, including the proposal to develop a national register of foreign-owned agricultural land.

The proposal comes four months after the NFF called for a national land register in order to gain clarity on the purchases of land and water, and the ability to monitor trends.

Two months ago the Government announced a working group to consult on the development of a register, and the Coalition has now gone a step further. Both the Government's, and the Coalition's, action is welcome news for the Australian agricultural sector, as it's a step towards greater transparency around this much-debated issue. We believe having a full understanding of foreign investment is crucial to getting the

policy decision right.

We have also welcomed the Coalition's proposal to increase the Foreign Investment Review Board to include at least one individual with agricultural sector expertise. For more, read our [release](#). **Fair Work Act, but no flexibility**

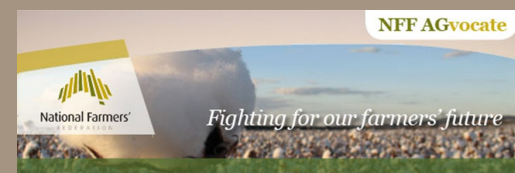
Last week saw the release of the review into Australia's employment law, the Fair Work Act 2009. The review panel has recommended some incremental changes to the Act, but we believe these do not go far enough to address the concerns raised by farmers.

In its current form, the Fair Work Act does not live up to what was promised by the Government: it is not simpler or fairer. Flexibility is billed as a key feature of the Act, yet the law doesn't allow for genuine flexibility for farm workers.

As it is, farmers have told us that the paperwork and red tape they have to wade through under the Fair Work Act often

impacts on employment. The costs to business of labour hire is rising under the Act, and, in some cases, farmers are being forced to invest in machinery rather than employ people to decrease costs and increase productivity. This not only impacts on farmers and the agriculture sector, but also towns and communities in rural areas.

We are calling on the Government to simplify the Fair Work Act and reduce its level of regulation and prescription. For more, read our [release](#) or our [submission](#) to the Fair Work Act Review.



Prevent Spray Failures with Multi-Pronged Approach

To avoid insecticide spray failures and prevent or delay the development of resistance, it is recommended that growers use a broad range of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies.

Department of Agriculture and Food (DAFWA) entomologist Svetlana Micic said an IPM approach involved correctly identifying the problem insect pest; monitoring pest numbers; and assessing damage to crop plants.

"Growers can also prevent spray failures by choosing control strategies based on economic thresholds; spraying only when necessary; and rotating insecticides across different chemical classes/modes of action," she said.

More information about approaches to key insect pests of Western Australian cropping systems is available in the new Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) Insecticide Resistance

Management and Invertebrate Pest Identification Fact Sheet. The timely resource is available in the July -August edition of the GRDC magazine Ground Cove.

Ms Micic, who helped compile the fact sheet, warned that growers should avoid the use of prophylactic (insurance) sprays.

"Insurance sprays can be an unnecessary cost and may speed up the development of insecticide resistance in pest populations," she said.

"Growers should consider carefully the need for insecticides; there may be beneficial insects present that will help control pests if crops are left unsprayed."

Ms Micic said high levels of insecticide resistance could cause significant financial and yield losses.

"Problem pests with resistance in WA include redlegged earth mites, diamond-

back moth and green peach aphids," she said.

"Information about managing these potentially damaging pests is contained in the fact sheet, as well as information about IPM and how to put it into action." IPM tactics fall into the following categories:

- Cultural - such as crop rotations and weed control which can suppress pest populations;
- Chemical - spray only if you have to and favour those products that conserve pests' natural enemies;
- Genetic - pest-resistant plant varieties;
- Biological - the conservation of natural enemies such as parasitic wasps, predators and pathogens that attack or feed on pests.

Farm Online Publication

NFF Congress 2012: The food and fibre boom

The NFF National Congress 2012 will be held in Canberra on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 October, bringing together Australian agriculture: farmers, industry and government from grassroots to global.

The NFF Congress will look at the major issues affecting the Australian agricultural sector on both a policy-development level and a practical on-farm level.

The Congress will focus on the need to ensure future food and fibre availability and the opportunities for Australian agriculture in feeding and clothing the world. While the mining boom is currently high on the national agenda, it will be the Australia food and fibre boom that helps us

meet the needs of the growing world population; helps secure Australia's position in the Asian century; and helps Australia grow its exports - both produce and knowledge.

The Congress is open to all within agriculture, and farmers are strongly encouraged to attend. Full Congress registration will open on 1 August 2012: to register your interest, or for further information, visit the <http://www.nff.org.au/congress.html> website today.

Fruit & veggie growers urged to pass on safe work tips by entering awards

Queensland fruit and vegetable growers are encouraged to share safe work initiatives they have introduced or have seen working well on other growers' farms.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is reminding fruit and veggie growers that entries into the 2012 Safe Work Awards close on 3 August 2012.

The Awards highlight innovative ideas, leadership and commitment to workplace health and safety. This year, growers are being encouraged to nominate a friend.

There are resources on the Work Safe website to help with your nomination including:

[Handy hints and tips fact sheet.](#)

Entry templates.

Example entries.

Films of the winning entries and finalists from 2011.

[Awards nomination booklet.](#)

To enter, visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915.

Permits

The following permits have been issued by APVMA in the past fortnight:

Permit 12221

Effective 29-Jun-12 to 30-Nov-17
Petroleum oil / alliums, brassicas, celery, eggplant, leafy vegetables, snow peas, sugar snap peas, okra, peppers, cucurbits & tomato / specified insect pests
For use in all states (excl Vic).

Permit 13396

Effective 29-Jun-12 to 30-Jun-15
Methomyl / parsley & coriander / Thrips and Western flower thrips
For use in all states (excl Vic). Restricted to crops for foliage harvest only. APVMA requires residue data for renewal.

Permit 13573

Effective 01-Jul-12 to 30-Jun-14
Rovral (iprodione) / celeriac / Sclerotinia rot
For use in all states (excl Vic).

Permit 13579

Effective 21-Jun-12 to 31-Jul-13
Tramat (ethofumesate) / onions, silverbeet & spinach / selected weeds
For use in all states (excl Vic). Reissuing of permit with restrictions for use in spinach. APVMA requires residue data for renewal in spinach.

Permit 13585

Effective 01-Jul-12 to 30-Jun-13
Iprodione / Brassica leafy vegetables / Sclerotinia, Grey mould, Alternaria leaf spot

For use in Qld only. Continuation of PER12582 that expires on 31/7/12. Data generation in progress.

Permit 11771

Effective 27-Jun-12 to 30-Sep-17
pirimicarb, methoxyfenozone, fenoxycarb, pymetrozine, buprofezin / cut flowers / Aphids, Lepidopteran pests, Greenhouse whitefly, Leafhoppers, Scale insects, Mealybugs.
For use in all states (excl Vic).

Permit 12357

Effective 9-May-12 to 30-Sep-15
Linuron / parsnip / weeds
For use in all states (excl Vic).

Permit 13205

Effective 28-May-12 to 30-Jun-17
Secure (chlorfenapyr) / spring onions & shallots / Western flower thrips
For use in all states (excl Vic). Updated conditions - no further

Permit 13541

Effective 1-Aug-12 to 30-Sep-13
iprodione / mandarin & tangelo / Emperor brown spot.
For use in Qld only. Continuation of PER12582 that expires on 31/7/12. Data generation in progress

Permit 13542

Effective 1-Jul-12 to 30-Jun-17
Maldison / strawberries / Rutherglen bug
For use in all states (excl Vic). Data required to reduce WHP from 3 to 2 days.

Full details of all permits are available on the [APVMA web site](#).

Chemical Security Risk Assessments

As part of its ongoing chemical reviews and counter-terrorism strategies, the Attorney General's Department (AGD) will soon be undertaking Chemical Security Risk Assessments on 28 agricultural/ veterinary chemicals:

- Aldicarb
- Aluminium phosphide
- Azinphos methyl
- Bendiocarb
- Cadusafos
- Carbofuran
- Chlorfenvinphos
- Diazinon
- Dichlorvos
- Endosulfan
- Ethion
- Fenamiphos
- Magnesium phosphide

- Methamidophos
- Methidathion
- Methiocarb
- Methomyl
- Mevinphos
- Omethoate
- Oxamyl
- Parathion methyl
- Paraquat
- Phorate
- Propoxur
- Sodium fluoroacetate
- Strychnine
- Terbufos
- Zinc phosphide

The Chemical Security Risk Assessments are designed to enhance security surrounding chemicals which may be used by terrorists or criminals as precursors for

bombs, while still ensuring they remain accessible to legitimate users. The risk assessments identify areas of vulnerability (from import and production through to end users) which will enhance government and law enforcement abilities to pre-empt and prevent misuse.

The AGD would like to undertake site visits to vegetable and potato growers who use the chemicals (end users). A site visit involves AGD gaining an understanding of how the chemicals are used in respect of a typical end user, and discussing with growers the work that AGD is undertaking.

If you wish to be part of an AGD site visit, please contact AUSVEG on (03) 9822 0388 or email info@ausveg.com.au.

Build a sustainable future for your business and the horticulture industry by becoming a member of Bowen Gumlu Growers Assoc.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

A strong and cohesive organisation providing a voice for our members and building a more sustainable future for the industry

Bowen & Gumlu District Growers Association

- represents the interests of the horticulture industry in Bowen and Gumlu
- invests in Research and Development projects and programs that best meet the needs of the industry locally
- provides strategic planning and the development and management of programs that provide benefits to the growers
- identify and coordinate activities to address

current and emerging pest & disease issues that impact on the local industry

- Coordinate information flow to enhance farming businesses
- Provide a link between government and industry to support growers
 - Look for initiatives and incentives that grow farming businesses and encourage profitability long term
- Is passionate about every farming businesses sustainability long term

Please tick the boxes that are applicable to your business and fax to: 07 4785 2211

☐

1c per carton capped at \$2500 \$1
Minimum amount payable 500

☐

per tonne capped at \$2500

Amount payable: \$_____.



Company Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph.: _____ M: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment can be made via Direct Debit or posting a cheque.
A tax invoice will be issued upon receipt of this fax back form.

Bank Account Details

Westpac

BSB: 034 166

A/C No: 18 2276

A/C Name: Bowen and District Growers Association Inc.



BGGA

Ph.: 07 4785 2860

Fax: 07 4785 2211

M: 0427 701 225

P O Box 489, Bowen Qld 4805

E: bdgainc@bigpond.com

BGGA thanks the 2012/13 Sponsors

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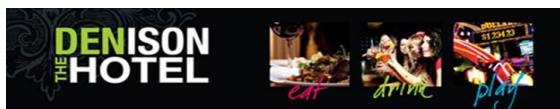
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Bowen is the largest winter vegetable growing region in Australia producing and sending fruit and vegetables to domestic markets and exporting to international markets. Bowen Gumlu Growers Association (BGGA) is the first point of contact for growers and industry in the region.

BGGA provides support to growers in the areas of Research & Development, Market Access, Market Development, Workforce Development, Strategic Planning, Water Issues, Industrial Relations, Reef Rescue Plan, Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme, Horticulture Code of Conduct and more.

Our vision:

A strong and cohesive organisation that provides a voice for its members and works towards a sustainable future for growers and industry.

Our mission:

BGGA efficiently and effectively represents and promotes the members interests by providing beneficial services that support business sustainability through innovation, research & development, and business management as well as working towards solutions to industry issues for a strong and cohesive horticulture industry for the future.

BGGA works proactively with industry for a sustainable future.

Salmon and Tomatoes

Ingredients serves 2

- 1 cup uncooked long grain white rice
- 2 cups water
- 2 1/2 tablespoons garlic oil
- 2 (6 ounce) fillets salmon
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill weed
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika to taste
- 2 fresh tomatoes, diced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 4 dashes hot pepper sauce



Directions

- In a medium saucepan, bring the rice and water to a boil. Reduce heat to low, cover, and cook 20 minutes.
- Heat the garlic oil in a skillet over medium heat.
- Season the salmon with salt, pepper, dill, and paprika, and cook in the hot oil 1 to 2 minutes on each side, until tender enough to break apart.
- Break salmon into cubes with a spatula or fork.
- Mix in the tomatoes, garlic, and lemon juice.
- Continue cooking until salmon is easily flaked with a fork.
- Mix the parsley, Parmesan cheese, butter, and hot pepper sauce into the skillet, and continue cooking 1 to 2 minutes, until well mixed.

Serve over the cooked rice.

Wine recommendations

- Non-Riserva Chianti (Italy)
- Red Burgundy (France)



**Bowen Gumlu
Growers Assoc. Inc.**

Ph.: 07 4785 2860
Fax: 07 4785 2211
M: 0427 701 225

P O Box 489, Bowen Qld 4805

E: bdgainc@bigpond.com

**This Newsletter is produced by
the Industry Development Officer project.**

**"This project has been funded by HAL using voluntary contributions
from industry and matched funds from the Australian Government."**



Know-how for Horticulture™



Fruit & Vegetable INSIDER

in this issue >>>

Growcom MEDIA RELEASE

- Change's to help Australia's horticulture exports to keep pace
- Interest rate cuts help primary producers
- Regulator warns, more permits under scrutiny after guilty plea, APVMA
- More profit per drop—irrigation farming systems
- Leadership training
- Workshops/flyers
- TYLCV and PLRV meeting
- Super yellow sweet corn
- IDM update

**Bowen & Gumlu Growers
Assoc.
Jan 2013 Edition**

Heartbreak for growers as flood impact is assessed throughout the state.

Queensland horticulture body Growcom today began to assess the damage to farms from the weekend's major flooding in horticultural regions of the state.

Chief Executive Officer Alex Livingstone said the organisation felt the heartbreak of many growers who once again were faced with the grim task of waiting for flood waters to recede from their properties before having to get in and clean up in order to get back into production.

"Some growers are faced with an anxious wait as water levels continue to rise. For many, it will be at least six months before their farms have an income again. For others, where orchards have been uprooted by the strength of the wind or damaged by flood waters it will take much longer," said Mr Livingstone.

"We welcome the State Government's announcement of assistance to disaster-affected communities in Queensland under the Natural Disaster Re-

lief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) administered by QRAA and the Personal Hardship Assistance Scheme administered by the Department of Communities.

"The immediate priorities in terms of assistance to our industry will be reconnection of power, telephone and internet access and repair of damage to roads, culverts and bridges preventing the movement of workers to farms and fresh produce to market," he said.

"While the damage is not as widely spread as in the 2010/11 floods, for some individual growers the effect of their properties being under flood waters again is the same as last time. For others it is far worse. For those growers who bore the brunt of the 2010/11 floods the struggle to get going again will be very hard.

"We call on the government to reinstate the Farm Financial Counsellors scheme to assist growers to access the financial assistance they need to get back on track. Industry Recovery Officers will also be essential in helping growers to deal with the practical and emotional issues involved in recovery. We hope that these arrangements can be made swiftly in the hardest hit regions."

Growcom will today attend the Agriculture Control Meeting convened by the Queensland Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, John McVeigh, to present initial damage estimates.

"We have been contacting growers in the Chinchilla, Mundubbera, Gayndah, Bundaberg, Stanthorpe, Lockyer Valley, Fassifern Valley, Gympie, Sunshine Coast, Logan, Kalbar and Boonah regions affected by the floods to compile damage records."

These include estimates of:

- Outright loss of vegetable and fruit crops
- Loss of orchard trees – either uprooted by strong winds or under water for too long
- Lack of access to paddocks for harvesting activities or planting activities
- Delays to planting of new crops due to need to clear paddocks of debris, repair erosion and to laser level
- Loss of quality in harvested crops due to transport delays caused by loss of roads and infrastructure such as bridges

CONT. PAGE 2

- Loss of farm infrastructure including pumps, drainage and irrigation equipment
- Loss of skilled workers due to cessation of work for extended periods.

"The next few weeks will determine the full extent of the damage which will be impacted on by the rate at which flood water drains off properties and whether further rain hinders clean-up efforts and raises the spectre of increased fungal diseases," Mr Livingstone said.

"Damage bills across the state are likely to be in the millions of dollars before production can return to normal in some of the hardest hit areas.

While much of the focus is on the Lockyer Valley and Bundaberg regions, it is

becoming clear that there is extensive damage across many regions. Orchards in the Gayndah/Mundubbera area have been particularly hard hit."

Growcom is available to help growers in applying for assistance and has a comprehensive list of government funding available to the horticulture industry on our web site at www.growcom.com.au.

"The scale of this event has once again emphasised the fragility of the fresh produce supply chain," said Mr Livingstone.

"The Bruce Highway has again been cut in several places causing disruption to the transport of fresh produce to market and Growcom again calls upon the state and federal government to assist in the creation of an all weather road."

**For further comment: Alex Livingstone
Chief Executive Officer, Growcom on 07
3620 3844. Issued by Chris Walker, Com-
munications Manager on 07 3620 3864**

RELEASED 29/1/13



Changes to help Australia's horticulture exports keep pace

Changes to Australia's horticultural export arrangements, announced today, will ensure the industry keeps up with a changing global market.

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Senator Joe Ludwig, said export efficiency powers for apple, pear and dried grapes will be removed from 31 January 2013. Powers relating to citrus will be retained until 31 January 2015.

The changes were recommended by an Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) review and were finalised after consultation with industry.

"The current regulatory arrangements have restricted the marketing opportunities for Australian citrus and impacted export volumes and revenue," Minister Ludwig said.

"Australia's citrus industry used to be a world leader—we want to make sure our exports remain competitive in this global industry.

"These changes will allow Australian exporters to build direct relationships with

retailers in the US and explore new opportunities in this key market."

The ABARES review was the first in the 10 years the export efficiency powers have operated to consider the powers against the principles of the National Competition Policy.

The review determined the need for change, finding the export efficiency powers did not reflect current trade policy and did not comply with Australia's World Trade Organisation obligations.

"The review involved thorough consultation with the horticulture industry, including the Australian citrus industry which is the only one to make significant use of the export efficiency powers," Minister Ludwig said.

"After further industry consultation I have agreed to a two-year transition period for the citrus industry, and removed the current single importer arrangement for the export of citrus to the US.

"I thank industry for their cooperation and am confident we've achieved the best outcome."

Minister Ludwig said a new Citrus to US Marketing Program, similar to the Citrus to China Marketing Program, will be established subject to approval of the ACCC.

"The program will set a minimum price paid for citrus destined for the US market and will reassure growers that the changes will not damage returns," he said.

The underlying provisions to regulate horticultural exports will remain to allow flexibility to address issues that may arise in the future such as ensuring adequate food safety control systems for Australia's horticulture exports.

The Regulatory Impact Statement will be made available on the Office of Best Practice Regulation website.

Source:
Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig
MEDIA RELEASE
21 December 2012

Media Contact:
Melissa Patch 0418 734 413 or
Katana Smith 0459 813 574

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry John McVeigh has announced a reduction in the interest rates for the Queensland Government's First Start and Sustainability Loans, stimulating further investment and support for Queensland's agricultural sector.

Mr McVeigh said the cut in interest rates is great news for Queensland producers.

"This will help them invest in infrastructure improvements, land purchases and equipment, leading to more sustainable primary production," Mr McVeigh said.

The new fixed interest rates on First Start and Sustainability Loans drawn down from 1 January 2013 to 30 June 2013 are:

Term Interest rate

1 year fixed 4.18% (down 0.06% from 4.24% as at 1 July 2012)

3 year fixed 4.21% (down 0.05% from 4.26% as at 1 July 2012)

5 year fixed 4.47% (down 0.05% from 4.52% as at 1 July 2012)

"I encourage Queensland primary producers to take advantage of QRAA's low interest rates and secure their farming future with the help of a First Start or Sustainability Loan," he said.

First Start Loans up to \$650,000 are available for applicants who want to enter primary production or become a partner in an existing family operation.

Sustainability Loans up to \$650,000 are available for primary producers wanting to improve their productivity and sustainability.

Mr McVeigh said First Start and Sustainability Loans had no set up or exit fees, repayment terms of up to 20 years and offered the option of joint lending with commercial banks.

"QRAA's loans continue to support primary producers and the Newman

Government's commitment to grow agriculture as one of the four pillars of the Queensland economy," Mr McVeigh said.

"To date in the 2012-13 financial year, QRAA has approved over \$40 million in First Start and Sustainability Loans.

"For anyone considering a First Start or Sustainability Loan, QRAA's Client Liaison Officers are available to meet on-farm to discuss the loan criteria, terms and conditions and the application process."

The First Start and Sustainability Loans are administered by QRAA under the Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme.

For further information on loan benefits, terms and eligibility criteria Freecall 1800 623 946 or visit www.graa.qld.gov.au (<http://www.graa.qld.gov.au/>).

Date: 25 January, 2013

APVMA

Regulator warns: More permits under scrutiny after guilty plea

Holders of agricultural and veterinary chemical permits are warned to stick closely to the requirements of their permits or face the legal consequences according to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).

The warning comes hard on the heels of an APVMA permit holder, Jotun Pty Ltd, being convicted and fined \$22,000 after pleading guilty to two charges in the Sunshine (Victoria) Magistrates Court on Friday.

Jotun was charged under the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals (Administration) Act 1992* (Cth) for import offences, and the Victorian Agvet Code for supply offences.

APVMA's regulatory strategy and compliance program manager, Neville Matthew, said he was disappointed with an apparent trend of companies failing to respect the conditions of permits.

"We will continue to tackle permit non-compliance with vigour in the coming year", said Mr Matthew.

"The dollar value of penalties has recently increased and with reform legislation currently being considered by the Australian parliament this year, the APVMA's compliance powers are likely to be enhanced, as are the maximum penalties for specific offences.

Jotun is a multinational company based in Norway, with an Australian office in Victoria. It produces a range of marine antifouling products that are applied to vessels to prevent or treat the build-up of barnacles, seaweed and so on.

Antifouling products fit the definition of an agricultural chemical product in the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Act 1994* and must be registered by the APVMA before being sold or used in Australia.

Several permits for two unregistered Jotun products were issued from 2003-

09 to enable research data to be collected and used in an application for full product registration. Revised permits were issued in late 2009.

"In this case, Jotun was allowed to conduct research on unregistered products through the issue of permits. These permits have limitations both in time and scale that are appropriate to that purpose. Jotun breached those limits", said Mr Matthew.

"APVMA permit holders are on notice: the APVMA will be scrutinising many more permits this year."

The APVMA is an independent statutory authority responsible for the assessment and registration of agricultural chemicals and veterinary medicines and for their regulation up to and including the point of retail sale.

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 21 January 2013

APVMA

www.apvma.gov.au

MORE PROFIT PER DROP

Irrigated Farming Systems



The Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines (DNRM) has announced two rounds for the Healthy HeadWaters Water Use Efficiency (HHWUE) infrastructure funding program to be run next year.

Applications in 2013 have changed to a two-stage process, beginning with a call for expressions of interest. DNRM will assess expressions of interest received and invite applicants to submit a tender form.

Expressions of interest for 2013 will be open in January to enable ongoing discussions between the department and irrigators. Expressions of interest for round four must be received by 22 March 2013, and for round five by 23 August 2013. Rounds four and five tender applications will be received from 8 to 22 April and 9 to 23 September respectively.

Irrigators holding a tradable surface water allocation in the following areas will be eligible to apply for funding:

- Condamine and Balonne—allocations on the main stem of the Condamine and Balonne Rivers, downstream of the confluence of Sandy Creek (if supplemented) and downstream of Talgai Weir (if unsupplemented), Lower Balonne Water Management Area (zones 1–10), St George Water Supply Scheme (zones 1–4)
- Border Rivers—Border Rivers Water Management Area (Dumaresq, Macintyre and Barwon zones), Lower Weir Water Management Area and Border Rivers Water Supply Scheme (zones A–B)
- Moonie (zones A–D).

Other zones may also be included later in the year. DNRM will announce any changes as they occur.

More information regarding funding or other HHWUE programs can be obtained by contacting the project team on phone (07) 4529 1321, email <hhwue@dnrm.qld.gov.au> or fax (07) 4529 1552. The application pack will also be available on the DNRM website at <www.dnrm.qld.gov.au> in January 2013.

The HHWUE project is delivered by DNRM with funding from the Australian Government's *Water for the Future* initiative through the Sustainable Rural Water Use and Infrastructure Program.

Source:
www.moreprofitperdrop.com.au/
Released 8th January 2013

Leadership Training

This two-day valuable leadership training workshop has been specially designed for anybody responsible for overseeing staff and their work outcomes, including managers, supervisors and team leaders. It is being offered free of charge by peak industry body Growcom, in collaboration with Queensland Gatton Vocational Education Centre (G-VEC) and the Queensland Government.

Find out how to:

- effectively communicate to develop trust, respect and confidence
- identify and analyse difficult situations and take suitable actions
- manage conflict constructively
- guide and support colleagues
- manage poor work performance
- effectively operate as a team.

On successful completion of the workshop participants will achieve an accredited unit of competency – BSBWOR401A Establish effective workplace relationships.

If you are interested in participating in the Leadership Training. This training will be available in late February/early March if there is enough interest from growers. This is a Growcom run training which is fully funded and available for members and non-members.

If you would like to participate please call (07) 4785 2860 or email ldm@bowengumlugrowers.com.au ASAP.

Workshops...

health promotion connections inc.
creating partnerships for better health

Great Grants Writing Workshop

A practical workshop to make grant writing easy

Presenter
Matthew Magin

Matthew Magin has an extensive background in grant submissions. Having spent 5 years as CEO of a regional development organisation and then stints in both State and Australian Government, Matthew has a unique insight into the grant writing process, their assessment and ultimate approval or decline.

Matthew's vast experience and fascinating insights can only help budding and established grant writers to understand the process and how to give their application the best chance of success.



5/36 Powell Street
PO Box 772
Bowen Q 4805

Phone: 07 4786 5941
Fax: 07 4786 5945
E-mail:
admin@hpcinc.com.au
www.hpcinc.com.au

Workshop Details

Date: Tuesday, 5 March 2013

Time: 6.00pm — 9.00pm

Where: North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation
Corner of George and Sinclair Streets, Bowen

Cost
\$25.00 per person (No GST)

Registrations Close - Friday, 1st March 2013

Light refreshments will be provided

How to Register

Please complete attached registration form and return to:

Mail: PO Box 772, Bowen Q 4805

In Person: 5/36 Powell Street, Bowen Q 4805

Fax: 07 4786 5945

Email: admin@hpcinc.com.au

Please ensure that payment is made at the time of registration to secure your place.

For more information please contact
Kathy Hansen on 4786 5941

**PLANE CREEK SUSTAINABLE FARMERS
PRESENT
DR ASH MARTIN**

Microbes and Soil Health in Sugar Cane

Dr Ash Martin is the Managing Director of Microbiology Australia. Dr Martin has more than 17 years experience in applied industrial and agricultural microbiology and agronomy, and has a passion for making science and research available for practical use by people on the ground. He has held research positions at Monash University, CSIRO and CSR, has run a successful horticulture business and has a rural background. Microbiology Australia's aim is to increase the productivity, sustainability and profitability of farmers by giving practical information.



A workshop for sugarcane growers seeking a better understanding of soil microbes and their management for improved soil health and productivity.

The workshop will cover

- Soil organic carbon cycles, management and improvement.
- Importance of fungi, bacteria, protozoa and nematodes in a soil system.
- Farming practices and their impact on soil microbes and soil health.
- Report back on the health of soils sampled from Mackay, Burdekin and Herbert canefields.
- The role of microbes in nitrogen cycling and how they can be harnessed to improve nitrogen fertiliser use efficiency.
- Measuring and monitoring soil health.

**Plane Creek
Sustainable Farmers**
Email: secretary@plane Creeksustainablefarmers.com

Ph: Heath Argent - 0429 027 377, or
Jayson Dowie - 0408 009 348
Web:
plane Creeksustainablefarmers.com

Burdekin

When: Tuesday 19th February 2013
Where: Canegrowers Hall, Home Hill.
Time: 7:45am for an 8:00 am start and finishing at 4:00 pm.

Mackay

When: Thursday 21st February 2013.
Where: Mackay Bowls Club, Cnr Nebo Rd and George St, West Mackay
Time: 7:45am for an 8:00 am start and finishing at 4:00 pm.

\$88 (inc gst) per attendant which includes a course booklet and lunch.

Places are limited! Please email PCSF secretary@plane Creeksustainablefarmers.com for a registration form.

MUSTER NEWS

January 2013

Welcome 2013



With some withering weather conditions we welcome 2013. Agsafe programs **drumMUSTER** and ChemClear are set for another great year throughout the state.

The **drumMUSTER** program continues to find favor with chemical users as the preferred method of drum disposal. A **ChemClear** collection for Qld has also been announced.

The 2011-12 year saw record drum returns. 416,154 drums were recycled in Qld. How many this year?

ChemClear coming to Queensland

ChemClear has announced that it's 5th Queensland collection will be held prior to the end of the current financial year. Following the record cleanout of over 52 tonnes of unwanted and out of date ag and vet chemicals in 2011 it is again expected that another significant total will be achieved.

All holders of unwanted and out of date eligible products are reminded that only chemical registered with the program will be collected. It is expected that the booking line will close in MID APRIL.

DON'T DELAY. REGISTER NOW. See below for details.



Register your chemicals either:

- Online Go to www.chemclear.com.au and follow the instructions at "Register your chemicals"
- Free call 1800 008 182,
- Complete and fax return a ChemClear Inventory Form or mail to ChemClear GPO Box 816 Canberra City. ACT 2601. (Forms available on the website or call Colin Hoey)

All successful registrations are acknowledged by email or post. A reference number relating to each of your Group 1 and 2 chemical registrations will be provided.

For further assistance or information contact Qld Regional Consultant Colin Hoey on the number below.



Colin Hoey
Regional Consultant, Qld / N. Rivers NSW.
Mob: 0428 964 576
Email: colinhoey@bigpond.com
www.drumMUSTER.com.au | www.chemclear.com.au

"Low Cost Lunch Boxes"



Shop Smart and Save Lunch Box Supermarket Tours



Whitsunday Regional Council
Invites parents and carers to
attend a
FOODcents nutrition tour at
the local supermarket. A
qualified Nutritionist will show
you how to read food labels,
save money and pack a
healthy lunch box that will
keep the kids going all day.

Cannonvale
Coles Supermarket, Whitsunday shopping Centre
6 February 2013 - 10:30am - 11:45am
14 February 2013 - 1:00pm - 2:15pm
Bookings Essential: 4786 5941

Proserpine
Fausts Supa IGA, Mill Street
6 February 2013 - 1:00pm - 2:15pm
14 February 2013 - 10:30am - 11:45am
Bookings Essential: 4786 5941

Bowen
Woolworths Supermarket, Centrepoint Plaza
7 February 2013 - 10:30am - 11:45am
20 February 2013 - 1:00pm - 2:15pm
Bookings Essential: 4786 5941

Collinsville
IGA, Cnr Conway & Stanley Streets
13 February 2013 10:30am - 11:45am
Bookings Essential: 4786 5941

For more information contact
Healthy Communities Coordinator on 47613612
This is a joint Australian, State and Territory Government Initiative
under the National Partnership Agreement on Preventive Health



Improving productivity for tomato growers through area wide management of Tomato yellow leaf curl and potato leafroll viruses in Bowen

WHEN: 13th February, 3pm

WHERE: DEEDI Research Station, Conference Room

WHO: Bowen and Gumlu Growers

RSVP: 11th February via (07) 4728 2860 or
idm@bowengumlugrowers.com.au

WHY:

- TYLCV and PLRV was confirmed to be in Bowen during 2011
- High amounts of cases observed in Bowen during 2012
- ⇒ Disease incidences of TYLCV was found to be up to 40% in some crops in 2012
- ⇒ Financial losses can be significant, with predicted losses from 1 ha with 50% area affected causing around \$50,500 worth of yield reduction

MORE INFORMATION IS NEEDED ON:

1. Virus host: survey of weed species and other crops for presence of TYLCV and PLRV
2. Evaluation of tomato lines with TYLCV resistance
3. Biological control of SLW and aphids
4. Use of insecticide and reflective mulches
5. Understanding the relationship between aphids and SLW numbers and virus incidence in crops

These five areas represent the main research areas required to develop a trial area wide management strategy of TYLCV and PLRV.

This project requires funding. BGGA members are encouraged to attend

‘Super yellow’ sweet corn: a new weapon in fight against macular degeneration



A new Australian variety of ‘superyellow’ sweetcorn could hold the key to fighting age-related macular degeneration, the leading cause of blindness in the western world.

The recently developed ‘Supergold’ variety of sweetcorn is high in zeaxanthin - a naturally-occurring pigment that gives corn its distinctive colour. Studies have demonstrated a link between high intake of foods containing zeaxanthin with a lower occurrence of age-related macular degeneration.

AUSVEG spokesperson Jeremy Story Carter said the ‘Supergold’ sweetcorn was a breakthrough achievement for the Australian vegetable industry.

“This new research is an exciting development for our local industry. Zeaxanthin is extremely important for eye health, but ordinarily you would need to eat an unfeasibly high amount of sweetcorn to achieve the levels required to battle macular degeneration. This new ‘Supergold’ variety will contain enough of the pigment (20 micrograms per gram) in half a cob to help improve

eye-health,” said Mr Story Carter.

The world-leading project was first undertaken in 2008 by plant pathologist Dr Tim O’Hare and his team at the University of Queensland’s Alliance for Agricultural and Food Innovation. One of the central challenges the team faced while cross-breeding varieties with high levels of zeaxanthin was achieving a consistent, uniform colour.

“Research showed that even if the corn contained great health benefits, consumers were unwilling to purchase a product that looked unusual and was uneven in colour. Achieving a consistent, deep-yellow colour in the corn was one of the key challenges this project was able to overcome,” said Mr Story Carter.

The ‘Superyellow’ variety, which will be put out for commercial tender in 2013, is not designed to replace existing lines of sweetcorn in the market.

“This will ultimately be a product that suits health-conscious consumers willing to pay a little more. Such an innova-

tive project only serves to underscore Australia’s position as one of the leaders in world agricultural research,” said Mr Story Carter.

Findings from the research have been published in leading industry journal *Vegetables Australia*, which is released today.

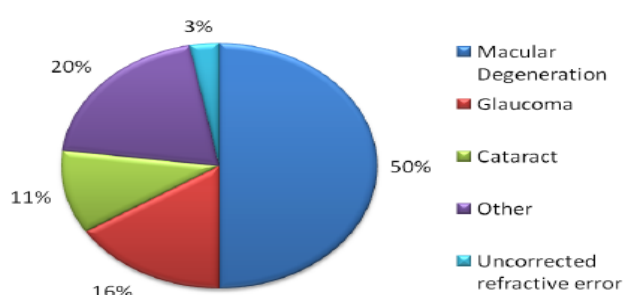
Produced by AUSVEG – the National Peak Industry Body representing Australia’s 7,000 vegetable growers – the 52-page magazine communicates vital Research and Development (R&D) findings and projects which have been funded by the National Vegetable Levy with matched funds from the Australian Government.

To receive a free media copy of *Vegetables Australia* magazine, please email your mailing details to jere-my.storycarter@ausveg.com.au.

Fast Facts → Macular Degeneration

- Macular degeneration is the leading cause of blindness and major vision loss in Australia
- 50% of all blindness is due to Macular Degeneration
- The prevalence of Macular Degeneration is 4 times that of Dementia and more than half that of Diabetes
- Approximately 1 in 7 Australians over 50 (1 million people) have some evidence of Macular Degeneration

Causes of blindness in Australia⁷



Source:
www.mdfoundation.com.au/resources/1/facts-figures_2012.pdf



Update from IDM

Dear Growers,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Year period.

Market Access

As previously mentioned in the last newsletter, we have had some progress with the Systems Approach for Market Access for Tomatoes and Capsicums. Currently our permits are being worked into an ICA by Biosecurity Queensland. We are hopeful that this will be done in-time for this growing season.

Training

Currently there are two different organisations running Chemical Accreditation courses in Bowen during February and April.

- Firstly there is ChemCert- date available are the 11th February and the 15th of April.
- Secondly there is another course run on the 19th of February by Country Co.

If you would like to register please contact the office and we can send the registration forms through to you.

BGGA also has the opportunity to participate in some fully funded Leadership Training by Growcom. If you would like to participate in this training please get in touch with us ASAP on (07) 4785 2860. For this training to go ahead we need 15+ participants. Training will run late February/early March, see page 4 for more information.

Research Projects

BGGA aphids proposal is also currently being reviewed by HAL. This proposal will be looking at IPM and will be run collaboratively between BGGA and Subra from DEEDI, if funding is successful.

As previously mentioned on page 4 TYLCV and PLRV meeting will be held on the 13th of February. This project needs funding so we would like to engage grower support of this project. We would like as many BGGA members and non-members to attend. PLRV and TYLRV were detected in 2011 and there has been an increased incidence of cases in 2012. Presence of these viruses can represent huge losses. It is important that we get on-top of this issue and look at ways of managing the spread/transmission of these viruses.

Gala Night

Planning has begun for the 2013 Gala Night. The date of the Gala night has not yet been set but we are hopeful that in the coming weeks a solid date will be made.

Participants wanted

Anyone who is interested in participating in a silicone fertiliser trial run by Advanced Plant Nutrition, please get in touch. Tomatoes, Capsicums, Zucchini, Bean and Sweet corn growers wanted.

Funding

Queensland Department of Natural Resources and Mines has announced two rounds of the Healthy Head Waters Water Use Efficiency (HHWUE) infrastructure funding program for 2013.

Applications in 2013 have changed to a two-stage process, beginning with a call for expressions of interest. The department will assess expressions of interest and invite applicants to submit a tender form.

Expressions of interest for 2013 open in January 2013 to enable discussions between the department and irrigators interested in participating in the program. For more information visit www.moreprofitperdrop.com.au/blog

Other news

Currently we are looking at potential trainee/apprentice options. In previous years apprenticeships run by local growers through training organisation have been highly successful. We are currently working with Rural Training & Employment (RITE) to hopefully reinstate such a program in the future.

Growcom is looking to re-run their Women In Horticulture program again. BGGA has provided a letter of support for the program which will hopefully receive funding.

BGGA's trainee is currently compiling a history of the association by going through all BGGA previous meeting minutes. The minutes start in 1958 so this has proved a big task, especially the minutes that are hand written! We look forward to reading though this in the near future. If anyone can provide any information regarding the history of the association, please email admin@bowengulmlugrowers.com.au

Regards,
Sarah Simpson.



Build a sustainable future for your business and the horticulture industry by becoming a member of Bowen Gumlu Growers Assoc.

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

A strong and cohesive organisation providing a voice for our members and building a more sustainable future for the industry

Bowen Gumlu Growers Association

- represents the interests of the horticulture industry in Bowen and Gumlu
- invests in Research and Development projects and programs that best meet the needs of the industry locally
- provides strategic planning and the development and management of programs that provide benefits to the growers
- identify and coordinate activities to address

current and emerging pest & disease issues that impact on the local industry

- Coordinate information flow to enhance farming businesses
- Provide a link between government and industry to support growers
 - Look for initiatives and incentives that grow farming businesses and encourage profitability long term
- Is passionate about every farming businesses sustainability long term

Please tick the boxes that are applicable to your business and fax to: 07 4785 2211

☐ 1c per carton capped at \$2500

☐ \$1 per tonne capped at \$2500

Minimum amount payable \$500

Amount payable: \$ _____.



Company Name: _____ Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Ph: _____ M: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

Payment can be made via Direct Debit or posting a cheque.
A tax invoice will be issued upon receipt of this fax back form.

BGGA

Ph: 07 4785 2860
Fax: 07 4785 2211
M: 0427 701 225

Bank Account Details

Westpac

BSB: 034 166

A/C No: 18 2276

A/C Name: Bowen and District Growers Association Inc

P O Box 489, Bowen Qld 4805

E: ids@bowengumlugrowers.com.au
www.bowengumlugrowers.com.au

BGGA thanks the 2012/13 Sponsors

Platinum Sponsor



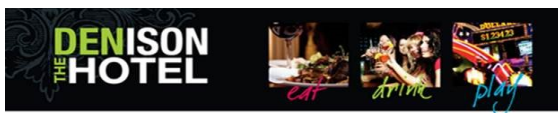
Gold Sponsors



Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Save the Date!!

1 - 11 February 2013

2013 AUSVEG European Grower Study Tour

13th February

PLRV and TYLCV meeting, 3pm DEEDI Research Station Conference Room

6 - 19 February 2013

2013 AUSVEG USA Grower Study Tour

25 - 27 February 2013

Australian Controlled Traffic Farming Association
CTF 2013 First International CTF Conference
Empire Theatre, Toowoomba, QLD

2 - 3 May 2013

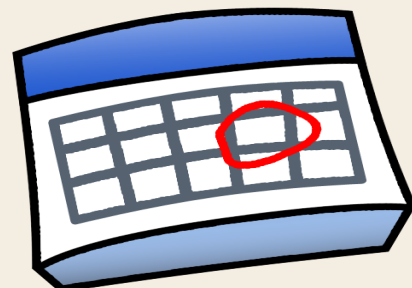
VGA Vic National Vegetable Expo
Werribee, VIC

30 May 2013 - 1 June 2013

2013 AUSVEG National Convention,
Trade Show and Awards for Excellence
Jupiters Gold Coast, QLD

1 June 2013

Annual Vegetable Levy Payers' Meeting
Speaker Auditorium
Jupiters Gold Coast, QLD



Pumpkin Pie

Serves- 6

Prep- 20mins

Cooking- 1hr



Ingredients

- 1/4 (about 800g) Queensland blue pumpkin, deseeded
- Melted butter, to grease
- 1 sheet (28 x 29cm) ready-rolled shortcrust pastry, thawed
- 250ml (1 cup) evaporated milk
- 75g (1/3 cup) white sugar
- 55g (1/4 cup, firmly packed) brown sugar
- 3 eggs, at room temperature, lightly whisked
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp ground ginger
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- Pinch ground cloves

Method

Preheat oven to 210°C. Line a baking tray with non-stick paper. Brush edges of pumpkin with a little melted butter and place on lined tray. Cook, uncovered, in preheated oven for 45 minutes or until tender. Remove from oven and set aside to cool.

Use a large spoon to remove the pumpkin flesh from the rind. Discard any brown edges. Place flesh in blender and blend until smooth.

Grease a 23cm (top measurement) pie plate with the melted butter. Line plate with pastry and trim excess. Prick base with a fork and place in the fridge for 20 minutes to rest.

Reduce oven to 190°C. Line pastry base with non-stick paper and fill with beans or rice and cook for 12 minutes. Remove paper and beans or rice, and cook for a further 8-10 minutes. Remove from oven and allow to cool.

Combine pumpkin, evaporated milk, sugars and eggs in a bowl and whisk until well combined. Add cinnamon, salt, ginger, nutmeg and cloves and mix well. Pour into prepared crust. Cover edge of pie with foil to stop it burning. Bake in oven for 25 minutes. Remove foil. Bake for a further 25-30 minutes or until a knife inserted off-centre comes out clean. Serve at room temperature.



BGGA

Ph: 07 4785 2860

Fax: 07 4785 2211

M: 0427 701 225

P O Box 489, Bowen Qld
4805

This Newsletter is produced by
the Industry Development Officer project.

"This project has been funded by HAL using voluntary contributions
from industry and matched funds from the Australian Government."



Know-how for Horticulture™



FRUIT & VEGETABLE INSIDER

IN THIS ISSUE >>>

- ⇒ AUSVEG Levy
- Payer Roadshow
- ⇒ AUSTSAFE Super-
- Financial Planning
- ⇒ Reef Programme—
- Reef Water
- Quality
- ⇒ Ag Competitive-
- ness Paper
- ⇒ Next Generation—
- Leadership
- Program
- ⇒ Export Exchange
- ⇒ First Aid
- ⇒ HACCP
- ⇒ Seed, Grow &
- Show
- ⇒ HACCP
- ⇒ IDO Update

**Bowen Gumlu Growers
Association Inc.
Feb/March 14 Edition**



Bowen horticultural district safe from rail development

Valuable horticultural land near Bowen will be removed from a proposed Galilee Basin State Development Area, a move designed to give local farmers confidence.

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning Jeff Seeney said the State Government had responded to feedback provided by the Bowen community and adapted the boundaries of the proposed State Development Area.

"I'm pleased to announce that more than 5,000 hectares of agricultural land to the north west of Bowen will be removed from the proposed mapping, following months of consultation," Mr Seeney said.

"This should bring certainty to Bowen's tomato farming community that the State Government values their operations and has ruled out the possibility that rail lines would be built across intensive farming land.

"This decision also delivers on our election promise to grow agriculture and resources."

Mr Seeney said the proposed State Development Area had been identified to support the development of major Galilee Basin mining projects which have the po-

tential to provide 28,000 jobs for Queenslanders.

"We need to forward plan for the placement of the rail lines that will be required to carry this coal to port, but we need to do that in a way that respects landholders and existing industries," he said.

"To that end, we have already excised the urban areas of Merinda and Collinsville from the proposed State Development and today we are doing the same for the region's horticulture industry."

Mr Seeney said the Coordinator-General now believes the proposed rail precincts centred around the existing Aurizon rail corridor near Merinda can be refined, and farming areas near Euri Creek can be removed from the proposed State Development Area.

"The Coordinator General is working with Aurizon, to clarify that future upgrades to the existing rail line in the intensive farming area near Merinda can be generally contained within the current Aurizon rail corridor," he said.

"Additionally he has identified that significant horticultural operations near Euri Creek will be removed from the proposed SDA."

Mr Seeney said that while formal submissions from interested parties regarding the Galilee Basin State Development area had closed on March 28, the Government would continue to consult with communities potentially affected by the proposed SDA.

"The Office of the Coordinator-General will continue to engage with landholders and residents seeking information on this issue," he said.

"We will continue to listen and take whatever time is necessary to minimise the impacts of this proposed State Development Area".

"I have asked the Office of the Coordinator General and my Department to communicate today's changes to landholders as soon as possible."

Landholders and local residents seeking further information on the proposed Galilee Basin State Development Area are encouraged to call 1800 001 048.

[ENDS] 2 April 2014

Media Contact: Jane Paterson
0417 281 754 or Elizabeth Spry
0418 928 744



Media release

The Honourable Jeff Seeney MP
Deputy Premier

Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning



QUEENSLAND REGIONAL ROADSHOW

COME AND LEARN ABOUT THE NATIONAL VEGETABLE LEVY, HOW IT IS BEING INVESTED, AND DISCOVER THE EXCITING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) PRESENTLY UNDERWAY IN YOUR INDUSTRY.

MONDAY 7 APRIL GATTON • 2:00PM - 6:00PM

GATTON RESEARCH STATION / WARREGO HWY, GATTON QLD 4343

FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM AUSTRADE, CONTROL RISKS, DAFF QLD, AUSVEG AND HAL.

TUESDAY 8 APRIL BUNDABERG • 10:30AM - 2:30PM

BUNDABERG ENTERPRISE CENTRE / QUAY ST, BUNDABERG QLD 4670

IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENVIROVEG / FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM DAFF QLD, AUSVEG AND HAL.



WEDNESDAY 9 APRIL BOWEN • 2:00PM - 6:00PM

BOWEN RESEARCH STATION / WARRICK RD, BOWEN QLD 4805

IN CONJUNCTION WITH ENVIROVEG / FEATURING SPEAKERS FROM DAFF QLD, AUSVEG AND HAL.

RSVP ▶

To RSVP, please fill out and return this slip to info@ausveg.com.au, fax to (03) 9882 6722 or contact AUSVEG on (03) 9882 0277.

Name(s):

Commodity grown:

Email:

Address:

Phone:

Fax:

Meeting attending:



FREE SEMINAR
including light refreshments

you're invited...
to a **free** AustSafe Super
financial planning seminar

Choose from one of
three locations:

Mackay

Monday 7 April 2014, 5:30pm
Canegrowers Office,
120 Wood Street, Mackay

Proserpine

Tuesday 8 April 2014, 5:30pm
Proserpine Ex-Services Club,
27 Chapman Street, Proserpine

Bowen

Wednesday 9 April 2014, 5:30pm
Castle Motor Inn,
6 Don Street, Bowen

The ball's in your court!



Retirement may be a long way off for you, or just a few years away. But one thing's for sure, the time to act is **NOW!** Come along to a **FREE** financial planning seminar and hear some super ideas about saving more effectively for your future. The plans you put in place today could make a real difference to the lifestyle you have in retirement!

Our Financial Planner, Cheryl Haines and our local Regional Managers, Anthony Brick and Paul Meredith will give you tips on:

- ✓ Working out how much super you'll need
- ✓ Growing your super while working
- ✓ Saving on tax and turning it into extra super, and
- ✓ Moving seamlessly into retirement.



Why wait? Book now! Call us on **07 3218 1401**

Inquiry Into The Development Of Northern Australia

The Development of Northern Australia
The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee has commenced an inquiry into the development of Northern Australia. The Committee has been tasked with the important role of helping to define the future of Australia's North—a region vital to the economic future of the nation.

The Committee will consider policies for developing the parts of Australia which lie north of the Tropic of Capricorn, spanning Western Australia, Northern Territory and Queensland, and in doing so:

- examine the potential for development of the region's mineral, energy, agricultural, tourism, defence and other industries;
- provide recommendations to:
 - enhance trade and other investment links with the Asia-Pacific;
 - establish a conducive regulatory, taxation and economic environment;

- address impediments to growth; and
- set conditions for private investment and innovation;
- identify the critical economic and social infrastructure needed to support the long term growth of the region, and ways to support planning and investment in that infrastructure.

The Committee will also present to the Parliament its recommendation for a white paper which would detail government action needed to be taken to implement the committee's recommendations, setting out how the recommendations were to be implemented, by which government entity they were to be implemented, a timetable for implementation and how and when any government funding would be sourced.

The Committee is due present an interim report to Parliament on the activities of the Committee as soon as practicable after 30 May 2014, with particular reference to the

outcomes of public hearings held across Northern Australia, and any specialist knowledge emanating from the public submissions process. The Committee is due to deliver its final report and recommendations to the Parliament on or before 6 July 2014.

Committee Chair, the Hon Warren Entsch, stated: "With its abundant resources and proximity to Asia, Northern Australia is set to become the new frontier in the economic development of Australia, opening up new opportunities which will benefit the entire nation. With the right policies and incentives in place, Northern Australia has the capacity to become a leader in agriculture, minerals and energy, tourism, research and education. We must remove impediments to growth and set the stage for innovation and investment."

Source:

The Australian Parliament's Northern Australia Committee
<http://www.apn.gov.au>

REEF WATER QUALITY GRANT INFORMATION – HORTICULTURE



NQ Dry Tropics will open for Burdekin Horticulture Reef Water Quality Grant applications from Thursday 13 March 2014.

The NQ Dry Tropics Sustainable Agriculture program is delivering **Reef Water Quality Grants** as part of the Australian Government's Reef Programme and its \$15 million commitment to the Burdekin Dry Tropics region from 2013-16.

The grants are designed to provide the financial assistance to help growers implement changes that **improve management practices** and productivity, while also reducing agricultural run-off into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon.

NQ Dry Tropics is working in conjunction with project partner Growcom to

deliver grants, training and extension to **horticulture growers** in the Burdekin Dry Tropics region.

- Horticulture Reef Water Quality Grants will fund applicable B Class practices (Best management practice for water quality) from the *ABCD Framework for Horticulture Growers – Burdekin/Bowen Region 2013*
- A Class practices (Cutting Edge/Innovation) will be assessed on a case-by-case basis
- B Class management practices that are not eligible for Horticulture Reef Water Quality Grants will be supported through extension and training opportunities
- All Horticulture Reef Water Quality Grants are capped at

\$13,000

• Available funding rates are determined by a sliding scale based on water quality and private benefit outcomes and will be funded at applicable rate up to the cap amount

Contact a Field Officer to set up an on-farm visit after the **13th March** to discuss your proposed management practice change.

Growcom Land & Water Field Officer,
Anna Geddes
NQ Dry Tropics, 2 McIlwraith Street,
South Townsville
Phone: 07 4722 5741
Mobile: **0417 743 614**
ageddes@growcom.com.au

It's time to think big about Australian agriculture

Now is the time for those interested in agriculture to have their say on how Australia can build a sector that grows and delivers a greater return to our nation and the farm gate.

Minister for Agriculture, Barnaby Joyce, today took the first step in developing the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper by releasing the issues paper and calling on people to get involved.

"If your experience in agriculture is anything like mine, then you're always looking for an opportunity to have your say," Minister Joyce said.

"Whether you're drenching sheep, mustering cattle or sitting on a tractor, you always had in the back of your mind what you would do to make the show work better – well this is your opportunity to do precisely that."

The issues paper identifies the key matters the government would like

input on and will guide the development of the White Paper.

Issues include access to finance, competitiveness through the value chain, reducing inefficient regulation, enhancing agricultural exports and managing drought for the longer term.

"There are a number of ways you can have your say," Minister Joyce said.

In the coming months, the taskforce will visit 25 towns and regional centres and the eight capital cities to consult with industry leaders, farmers, and those in sectors connected to the land like transport and banking.

Those who are interested can also make an appointment to meet one-on-one with the taskforce while they're on the road.

Written submissions are also sought and these can be lodged via the website.

"Now is your chance to think big," Minister Joyce said.

"Now is your chance to say what I would do for my nation if I was to make agriculture work better."

Building on our strengths in agriculture is part of the Australian Government's plan to build a diverse 5-Pillar economy to generate jobs and deliver a stronger, more prosperous economy.

Submissions are due by 5pm EST 17 April 2014.

The towns and regional centres the taskforce will visit are available on the website. To find out more visit www.agriculturalcompetitiveness.dpmc.gov.au

BGGA President Carl Walker attended the Bowen hearings on the 4th of April. BGGA's IDO will also be putting in a submission so if you have any issues or ideas that you would like included please get in touch on 0427 701 225.

Are you a business leader within the Australian Horticulture Industry?

- Applications now open for HAL funded leadership program, **Horticulture – The Next Generation**
- 25 places available to business leaders from across the industry

[Click here for feedback from previous participants](#)

SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS WILL RECEIVE:

- 4 full days of face-to-face leadership and business development training;
- Networking and best practice sharing opportunities with fellow industry leaders;
- Access to a wealth of web based support tools, webinars and training programs;
- Experienced one-to-one coaching support.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

Horticulture – the Next Generation is a tailored leadership development program that provides hands on practical tools and concepts for growing and building your business. Content is tailored to meet the specific needs of participants and covers areas such as business planning, problems solving, practical sales and marketing, leadership, time management and decision making. There course includes two face to face workshops in Brisbane and Melbourne and an online learning component.

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Business owners and managers of levy paying businesses who have responsibility for managing staff, are looking to grow their business and have a passion for the industry and its future are encouraged to apply. Additional places are available for businesses in the horticultural supply chain, however these applicants will be required to fully fund their involvement and will be considered on a merit basis. [Contact Russell Cummings for more information.](#)

DON'T MISS THIS UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY – APPLY NOW

To apply, submit an application form by 5pm 30 April 2014.

[Click here to download form.](#)

Applicants will be shortlisted based on the quality of their application and reviewed by an Industry Reference Group. Successful applicants will be notified in mid-May 2014.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE FOLLOWING DATES AND LOCATIONS FOR THE 2014 PROGRAM.

1st Workshop:

July 7 - 8, 2014

Brisbane, Stamford Plaza

2nd Workshop:

October 13 - 14, 2014

Melbourne, Punthill Hotel

Note: Travel and accommodation costs will not be covered as part of the program.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Contact [Russell Cummings](#), Project Leader or [Sharyn Casey](#), HAL portfolio manager.

www.horticulture-nextgeneration.com.au

[Click here to apply](#)

Applications Close: 5:00 PM, 30th April 2014



Horticulture Australia



TROPICAL QUEENSLAND EXPORT EXCHANGE

► Connections ► Ideas ► Opportunities

As a home to prolific horticulture, dairy, meat and seafood industries that sits **on the doorstep of Asia**, Tropical Queensland offers vast opportunities for international trade, and the **Tropical Queensland Export Exchange is where the opportunities begin...**



Why attend?

This first-time event will feature a mix of panel discussions and presentations, with market specialists providing their insights into trade opportunities and challenges, giving both local exporters and international buyers opportunities to put their questions to the experts and to interact with each other directly.

With a program spread over two days, the Tropical Queensland Export Exchange (TQEE) will commence with the optional pre-conference welcome dinner on April 30. The conference and trade show will be held at the Shangri-La Hotel, The Marina, Cairns on May 1, and on May 2 delegates will have the option of joining a hosted day tour of their chosen industry in Cairns and surrounding regions.



Who will attend?

- International Buyers
- Primary Producers
- Airlines
- Sea Ports
- Wholesalers
- Freight Forwarders
- Cargo Terminal Operators
- Government Agencies
- Airports

Register now

Registrations are open for Tropical Queensland Export Exchange.

Visit tqexportexchange.com to book or for more enquiries
email exportexchange@cairnsairport.com.au

MAY 1 - 2
2014

Shangri-La Hotel, The Marina, Cairns, Australia

**Tropical Queensland Export Exchange is
where the opportunities begin...**

www.tqexportexchange.com

Program Overview*

Wednesday, April 30 2014

1830	TQEE PRE-CONFERENCE WELCOME DINNER
------	------------------------------------

Thursday, May 1 2014

TIME	TOPIC
0830 - 0840	Welcome and Introduction
0840 - 0900	North Queensland Regional Overview
0900 - 0930	Australia's Free Trade Agreements Overview
0930 - 1015	Supply and Demand Forecast for North Queensland's Agrifoods and Seafoods in SE Asia and China
1015 - 1045	COFFEE BREAK
1045 - 1100	Industry Profile ► Seafoods (wild caught)
1100 - 1115	Industry Profile ► Meat and Poultry products
1115 - 1130	Industry Profile ► Dairy products
1130 - 1145	Industry Profile ► Horticulture
1145 - 1200	Industry Profile ► Aquaculture
1200 - 1245	Panel Discussion: Doing Business in Asia - Opportunities and Challenges
1245 - 1415	NETWORKING LUNCH AND TRADE SHOW
1415 - 1500	Panel Discussion: Access to Markets - Transport and Logistics
1500 - 1530	Food Safety and Security
1530 - 1615	Assistance and Support available to Exporters
1615 - 1700	Panel Discussion: Trade with PNG - Opportunities and Challenges
1700 - 1845	NETWORKING FUNCTION (TRADE SHOW AREA)
1915 - LATE	TQEE POOLSIDE DINNER: SHANGRI-LA HOTEL

Friday, May 2 2014

0800 - 1800	Industry Tours[^] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Dairy products ► Fruit, Wine and Coffee ► Meat and Poultry products ► Aquaculture ► Wild-caught Seafood
-------------	---

[^]Tours of other industries available by prior arrangement

*Current as of 24/2/2014. Latest program overview can be found at tqexportexchange.com

First Aid Training

Delivered by Queensland Ambulance Service

First Aid Essentials including CPR

Date: Thursday 10th April 2014

Time: 8:30am - 5pm

Location: Bowen Research Station - 45 Warwick Rd, Delta

Cost: \$120*

Requirement: Participants will be required to do a small amount of reading before the course

* cost may decrease slightly if the number of participants increases - \$120 will be the maximum cost. An Invoice will be sent.



Queensland Government



BOWEN GUMLU
GROWERS ASSOCIATION INC.

Please complete and return by Friday the 4th April 2014 via Fax or Email to 4785 2211 or
rwdo@bowengumlugrowers.com.au

Company Name: _____

Invoice Address: _____

Attendee 1: _____

Attendee 2: _____

Attendee 3: _____

Attendee 4: _____

Attendee 5: _____

Please note that non-attendance may still result in payment - as the course fee is dependent on a certain number of attendees.

Workforce Development

Seed, Grow & Show



Seed, Grow and Show is a pilot program developed by BGGA and DAFF which enables students to grow a vegetable crop at the Bowen Research Station, and then enter it into the Bowen Show. Year 6 students from Queens Beach and Bowen State will visit the Bowen Research Station in Term 1 to plant the crops and then again in term 2 to harvest the crop. The Bowen Research Station will look after the crops between the two visits. The students will be involved in a range of learning activities during the excursions related to soil, planting, weed and pest control, plant care, environmental factors, extreme weather factors and harvesting.



Students had their first visit this week, where they participated in planting, soil health and pest management activities. The students will be growing watermelon, cucumber or corn and are looking forward to harvesting their crop and displaying it at the Bowen Show.

Over the coming weeks the school will receive updates on how their crop is growing and are invited to visit the Research Station. We would like to thank DAFF for funding the project and for entertaining over 120 kids! Seed, Grow and Show has been designed to make the younger generation aware of the fruit and vegetable industry and opportunities within it.

HACCP Practitioner Training

This course is based on the guidelines of ISO 22000:2004/HACCP and compliance with HACCP Codex Alimentarius. It is particularly relevant to those individuals responsible for the development and maintenance on an organisation's HACCP Plan and integrated management systems operational planning. Participants who attend and submit class activities for assessment will be issued with a Certificate of Attainment covering the following competencies under the RABQSA and ASQA frameworks:

RABQSA-HP—HACCP Including Writing HACCP Plans

Duration:	2 Days
Date:	Tentatively the 28th and 29th April
Location:	Bowen Research Station—45 Warwick Rd, Delta
Cost:	\$1060. Cost may decrease slightly if the number of participants increased from the minimum.

To register your interest, please contact Bianca on 0427 009 929 or rwdo@bowengumlugrowers.com.au

For all Workforce Development Enquires please contact:
Bianca Fullarton rwdo@bowengumlugrowers.com.au 0427 009 929

Industry Development Officer Update

February was a busy month, with the Growcom Disaster Relief Workshop, Skilled Migration Workshop and Energy Efficiency Expo (held by BBIFMAC).

I also attended the Reef Guardian Steering Group, Growcom Strategic Review during this month to provide feedback from the region.

The month of February also held our first bi-monthly General Meeting, which was fairly well attended- but could do with some more input from some new growers. I would encourage you to attend to provide feedback as this guides our work. The schedule for this year is below, so please save these dates!

Wednesday 30 th April	General Meeting
Wednesday 28 th May	Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 30 th July	General Meeting
Wednesday 24 th September	General Meeting
Wednesday 26 th November	General Meeting

The meetings fall on the last Wednesday of every second month, with an Executive Meeting held in the in-between month.

The month of March held our first information session regarding ICA-48 this is the BGGG System Approach that is now available for Tomato and Capsicum growers to use for all States and Territories, except Western Australia. This can be downloaded from <http://domesticquarantine.org.au/ica-database/queensland/queensland-ica-48> or alternatively we have copies in the office that can be sent out

to interested growers. This ICA is regionally and seasonally specific with the procedure very similar to ICA-26. However includes two extra chemicals.

I am currently working with Biosecurity to complete an Office of Horticulture Market Access (OHMA) application to get our regional ICA-48 (Systems Approach) on the agenda for discussion with NZ authorities for an export market option.

A recent meeting at Bowen Research Station was held in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources and Mining (DNRM) regarding the chances to water metering. This relates to the ownership of water meters, with ownership of water meters, transferring from the DNRM to the metered entitlement holder. By this time, you should have received some notification via post regarding these changes.

As a result of this, landholders will then take on the servicing and reading of water meters which will then be uploaded onto an online portal. Please contact me to receive the step-by-step guide to filling information into the new website portal.

It is also important to note that if any of your meters are broken that you notify the DNRM, so that they can fix the meters and the cost then does not fall on the metered entitlement holder (YOU). All you need to provide is:

- Entitlement Number
- Meter Number

This information then needs to be passed onto the DNRM representative, Mark Williams. This information must be provided to the DNRM within 60 days from the 6th of March

- this works out to be the Tuesday the 6th May 2014.

If you have water meters on blocks that will not be used this year, thus have no ability to check if they are working, this can be flagged with the DNRM so that if you then go to use them next year and they are not working, that the DNRM can then pick up this cost. Entitlement and meter number should be collected and provided to the DNRM, the same process as if you had a broken meter.

Mark Williams from the DNRM is available to talk through any questions or queries you may have in relation to these changes.

Mark Williams
Senior Natural Resources Officer
Water Services, DNRM
Telephone: 07 48373347
mark.williams2@dnrm.qld.gov.au

BGGG have been participating in both the Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia (page 3) and Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper (page 4). BGGG will be putting in a submission into the Agriculture Competitiveness White Paper, so if you have any feedback or ideas regarding this get in touch with IDO Sarah.



Pictured: BGGG at the recent Inquiry into the Development of Northern Australia.

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Save the Date!!

9th April 2014

AUSVEG Levy Payers Roadshow,
Bowen
2pm

9th April 2014

AUSTSAFE Super Financial Planning
Seminar, Bowen
5:30pm

10th April 2014

First Aid Training

28th-29th April 2014

HACCP training

30th April

General Meeting

1st-2nd May

Export Exchange

28th May

BGGA Annual General Meeting

13th June 2014

BGGA Gala Night + Farm Tour

19th-21st June 2014

AUSVEG Convention
Cairns

24th-26th June 2014

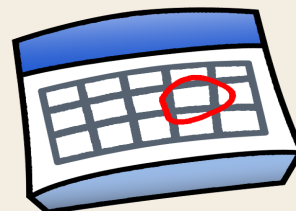
PMA Conference
Auckland, NZ

30th July

BGGA General Meeting

17th-22nd August 2014

International Horticultural Congress,
Brisbane



Chargrilled eggplant, olive and feta salad

Ingredients

- 200g Lebanese eggplant (see note)
- 1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives
- 50g Greek feta, crumbled
- 30g baby rocket leaves
- 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon caster sugar

Prep -10 minutes

Cook -10 minutes

Difficulty— Easy

Serves— 2

Source-taste.com.au



Method

- Heat a barbecue or chargrill on medium-high. Cut 200g Lebanese eggplant in half lengthways. Spray with olive oil. Season. Cook for 3-4 minutes each side or until tender. Transfer to a large bowl. Cool slightly.
- Add 1/2 cup pitted kalamata olives, 50g crumbled Greek feta and 30g baby rocket leaves.
- Whisk 1 tablespoon extra virgin olive oil, 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar and 1/2 teaspoon caster sugar in a small jug. Pour the dressing over the salad.

BGGA

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