



Horticulture in the Peel-Harvey

A Guide for Investors and Growers

This brochure provides important information to guide investment decisions with new horticulture development in the Peel-Harvey

Growth in the Peel-Harvey Region

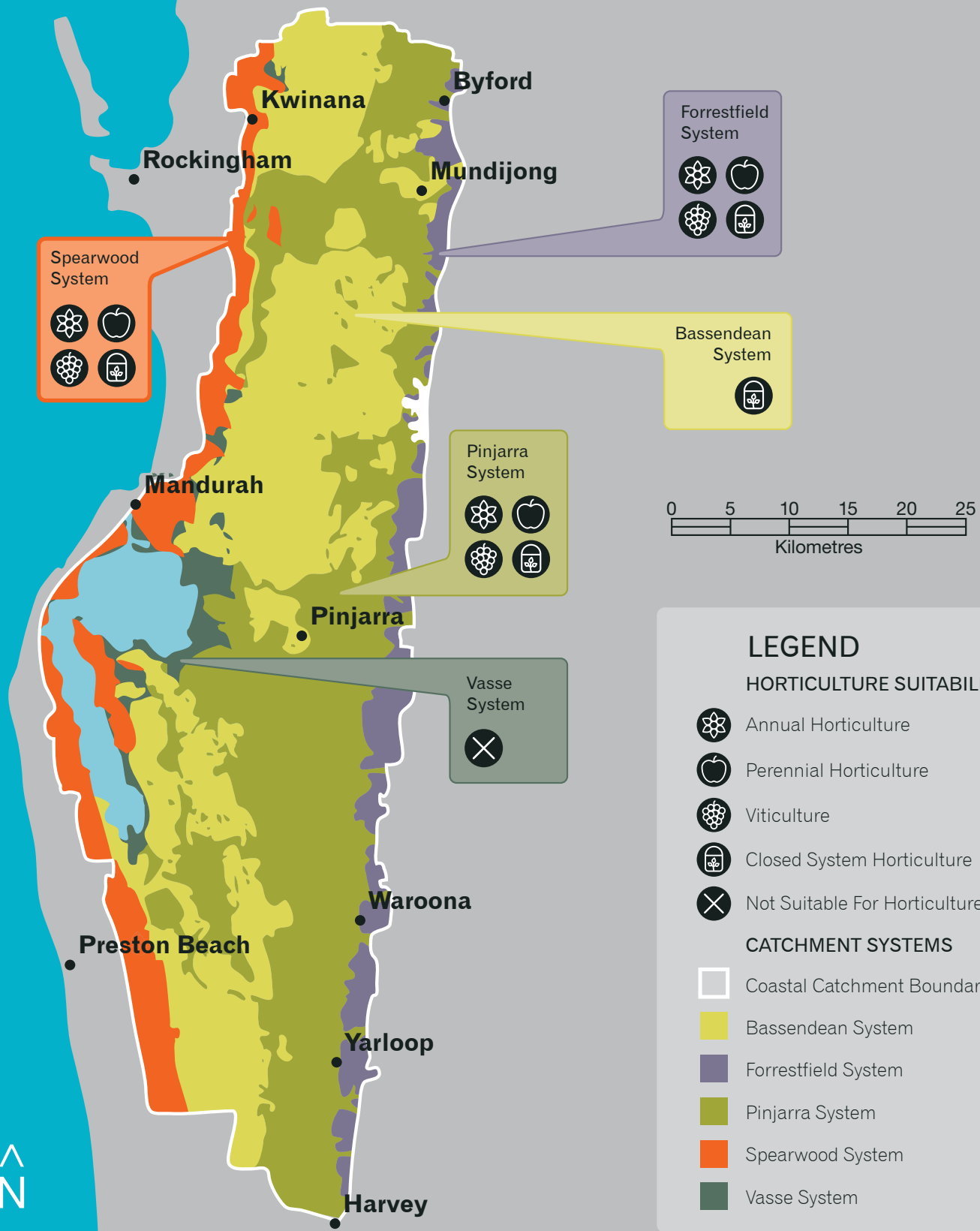
Because of its close proximity to markets, the Peel-Harvey coastal catchment grows over \$350 million of produce across 140,000 hectares.

With production expected to increase significantly in the next 20 years, new agricultural systems and food innovation which both meet this increased production and protect the region's unique environmental and cultural character, are paramount.



Horticulture and the environment

There are a many significant environmental assets within the Peel-Harvey, chiefly the internationally recognised Ramsar-listed wetlands and Estuary. These natural features are protected under International Convention and require protection from threats, particularly excessive nutrient-rich water entering the coastal catchment. Nutrients drive algal blooms which erode water quality, reduce recreational opportunities and ultimately lead to health issues and fish kills. To maintain water quality, special requirements apply to all new developments including horticultural projects.



LEGEND

HORTICULTURE SUITABILITY

- Annual Horticulture
- Perennial Horticulture
- Viticulture
- Closed System Horticulture
- Not Suitable For Horticulture

CATCHMENT SYSTEMS

- Coastal Catchment Boundary
- Bassendean System
- Forrestfield System
- Pinjarra System
- Spearwood System
- Vasse System

SOIL-LANDSCAPE SYSTEM MAP

This map provides an indication of risks posed to different landscapes.

- Potentially suitable for Annual horticulture (moderate risk to water quality)
e.g. vegetable farms, turf farms, flowers, seedling nurseries
- Potentially suitable for Perennial horticulture (moderate risk to water quality)
e.g. citrus, orchards, table grapes, other fruit, high yielding olives, retail nurseries
- Potentially suitable for Viticulture (moderate risk to water quality)
e.g. wine grapes, low yield olives
- Potentially suitable for Closed system horticulture and nurseries (moderate risk to water quality)
- Not suitable for horticulture (very high risk to water quality)



Protecting everyone's future

Government policies are in place to ensure both sustainable horticulture and a healthy environment can co-exist within the Peel-Harvey coastal catchment.

Draft State Planning Policy 2.9 – Planning for Water and the Environmental Protection (Peel Inlet-Harvey Estuary) Policy 1992 require all new developments within the catchment comply with nutrient management standards.

Additionally, these planning policies support sustainable agriculture:

- Peel Region Scheme Strategic Agricultural Resource Policy
- Greater Bunbury Region Scheme Strategic Agricultural Resource Policy
- State Planning Policy 2.5 Land Use Planning in Rural Areas

In places, horticultural use may be restricted, require special conditions or not be permitted due to excessive risk to our waterways. Groundwater resources may be limited or of poor quality in some areas. The key to establishing productive cropping with appropriate environmental protection is the simple principle of siting the right industry in the right location.

Nutrient Management Risk

The map provides general advice and is a guide only. Growing vegetables directly in poor deep sands leads to excess fertiliser being washed into groundwater and our waterways. This can lead to algal blooms and fish deaths and is contrary to government policy.

Well managed closed systems of production pose a much lower risk to our waterways. Growers are strongly encouraged to pursue opportunities to use closed loop growing systems in preference to growing vegetables directly on poor soils.

Cultural Values

The Bindjareb-Djilba (Peel-Harvey Estuary) has been cared for by the Bindjareb Noongar people for more than 50,000 years. The Bindjareb culture brings together Spirit, Land and People, and strongly interconnects the health of the waterway with a sense of place and wellbeing for their people. Water quality management in the catchment is of importance to maintain both the environmental and cultural values of the Djilba.



Selecting a site for investment

If you are planning a new horticultural venture in the Peel-Harvey, here's a helpful checklist:

- Consult your Local and relevant State Government agencies early in your planning process
- Ensure the land's zoning supports commercial horticulture / intensive agriculture
- Match crop and production systems to site soils and land capability
- Seek advice from suitably qualified professionals to ensure your proposed project complies with established policy
- Ensure sufficient groundwater/water resources are available to the chosen site
- Ensure adequate separation between production areas and sensitive land uses
- Ensure necessary services and infrastructure can be supplied to the site
- Avoid impacts to significant bushland or wetlands

Opportunity to diversify

For existing operations, there may be opportunity to increase profitability and productivity by looking into different crops and cropping methods to respond to limitations in soil type, water supply, seasonal inundation as well as catchment nutrient management requirements.

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development can provide advice on modified approaches to farming for greater economic return within suitable areas of the Peel-Harvey Catchment.

Advice > Assistance > Approvals

Local and State Government can provide advice and assistance to help plan new horticultural ventures, or direct you to the appropriate agency for assistance.

New horticultural developments in the Peel-Harvey Coastal Catchment require planning approval by the relevant Local Government authority. This ensures that developments comply with State Government policy and local planning schemes and will be environmentally acceptable.

Proponents are encouraged to consult their Local Government planning departments at the earliest possible opportunity. Pre-lodgement meetings will help clarify information requirements and the approvals process.

Other government approvals and licences may also be required, including licences to take groundwater, construct dams or drain, pump water, discharge treated effluent, or clear native vegetation. Your Local Government may be able to provide guidance on some of these requirements.

Useful contacts

City of Kwinana	(08) 9439 0200	admin@kwinana.wa.gov.au
City of Mandurah	(08) 9550 3777	council@mandurah.wa.gov.au
Shire of Harvey	(08) 9729 0300	shire@harvey.wa.gov.au
City of Rockingham	(08) 9528 0333	customer@rockingham.wa.gov.au
Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale	(08) 9526 1111	info@sjshire.wa.gov.au
Shire of Murray	(08) 9531 7777	mailbag@murray.wa.gov.au
Shire of Waroona	(08) 9733 7800	warshire@waroona.wa.gov.au

FOR GENERAL ADVICE ON LAND USE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR AGRICULTURE, LAND CAPABILITY MAPPING

Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development, Land Use Planning Team

BUNBURY OFFICE	(08) 9780 6100	landuse.planning@dpird.wa.gov.au
Kwinana, Rockingham, Murray Serpentine-Jarrahdale Waroona, Harvey		

FOR GENERAL ADVICE ON DEVELOPMENT IN THE PEEL REGION

Peel Development Commission	(08) 9535 0000	peel@peel.wa.gov.au
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FOR GENERAL ADVICE ON WATER LICENCING, GROUNDWATER AVAILABILITY, NUTRIENT & IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Kwinana-Peel Region	(08) 9550 4222	peel@dwer.wa.gov.au
South-West Region (Bunbury)	(08) 9726 4111	bunburyadmin@water.wa.gov.au

FOR ADVICE ON DRAINING OR PUMPING IN THE PEEL-HARVEY COASTAL CATCHMENT

Office of the Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner	(08) 9368 3282	enquiries@dpird.wa.gov.au
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USEFUL, MAP-BASED INFORMATION ON THE WEB

Soil-landscape mapping for suitability of horticulture

<https://dpird.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=244a530e57d94b5b8569d8e8ee4f2111>

Interactive mapping for natural resources including native vegetation and wetlands

<https://catalogue.data.wa.gov.au>



Revision 2024

The revision of the guidelines has been prepared by the Bindjareb Djilba Planning and Policy Coordinating Committee, for the implementation of the Bindjareb Djilba (Peel-Harvey estuary) Protection Plan. The original project (2015) was an initiative of the Peel Regional Leaders Forum (now Peel Alliance) and PHCC Sustainable Agriculture Technical Working Group, supported by the PHCC