

GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Department of
Primary Industries and Regional Development

Protect
Grow
Innovate

Growing WA: Agriculture 2035

Growing WA: Agriculture 2035

A 10-year strategic framework outlining DPIRD's priority areas for investment, action and collaboration to support Western Australia's (WA) agriculture and food sector.

Our vision

A productive, sustainable and competitive agriculture and food sector that drives enduring prosperity for WA.

Objective

Enable growth, productivity and resilience across WA's agriculture and food sector.

Our focus areas

Resilience

Strengthen industry resilience to climate, water, biosecurity, market and geopolitical risks.

Trust and reputation

Maintain trust in WA production systems and strengthen provenance.

Capability and knowledge

Lift capability and productivity through adoption of research, innovation and technology.

Market access and supply chain

Strengthen competitiveness, market access and supply chain performance.

Our strategies

- **Lead** and **influence** sustainable management of land, healthy soils, water, input resources and enabling infrastructure.
- **Lead** and **support** targeted research, development and innovation into climate adaptation, biosecurity preparedness, and market expectations.
- **Support** industry to build capability to sustainably manage natural resources, adopt innovation, and realise emerging opportunities.
- **Lead** and **influence** policy, regulatory and accreditation systems that underpin sustainable production, market access, and sector performance.
- **Lead** and **support** trusted data integration and digital systems.
- **Promote** responsible practices that strengthen trust, transparency, traceability and community support.
- **Promote** WA's provenance and our premium reputation.
- **Lead** medium to long-term research, development and innovation to accelerate productivity, competitiveness and sustainable growth.
- **Support** workforce capability through skills development, career pathways and technology adoption.
- **Support** digital capability and infrastructure investment to enable sector transformation.
- **Coordinate** and facilitate investment in resilient and efficient supply chains, infrastructure and supporting systems.
- **Support** high-value, processing and advanced manufacturing, including scale, competitiveness, food innovation and new product development.
- **Support** market growth and diversification to capture emerging domestic and international opportunities.

Outcomes

Productivity

Increased productivity across the agriculture and food sector.

Production

Growth of production and value-adding for domestic and international markets.

Reputation

Enhanced reputation as a trusted, responsible producer.

Stewardship

Improved condition of natural resources to support sustainable production.

Our priorities

Resilience

Sustainable management

- Lead land manager stewardship to improve soil, water and native vegetation condition.
- Influence access to water for food and livestock production and processing.
- Assess land and water capability and risks to identify future production areas.

Targeted research

- Advance climate-ready grain, horticulture, livestock and aquaculture production systems.
- Strengthen integrated pest and disease management and pollination security in production systems.

Industry capability

- Deliver the WA Primary Production Adaptation Plan and lead drought resilience policy and programs.
- Deliver government grant and assistance programs which focus on industry capability uplift.
- Grow Aboriginal participation, enterprise and leadership in agriculture and food sector.

Trust and reputation

Policy, regulation and accreditation

- Lead development of policy initiatives that reflect the importance of food production and security for the community.
- Influence planning, environmental and nature policy reform for agriculture and food sector.
- Influence accreditation and industry standards for agribusiness growth and market access.

Evidence and intelligence

- Integrate research, farm and environmental data for risk-smart management and informed policy.
- Build data and knowledge systems that grow the food and beverage industry.

Responsible practices

- Strengthen industry readiness for environmental markets, biofuels and low carbon agriculture.
- Promote practices that enhance community confidence and compliance.

Provenance

- Promote the WA agrifood story, buy local and support the Made in WA Plan.

Capability and knowledge

Research, development and innovation

- Drive diverse and efficient production systems.
- Improve water and input use efficiency in agricultural production systems.
- Maintain capability through investment in research partnerships and enabling infrastructure.
- Accelerate industry adoption of innovation and best practice.

Workforce capability

- Support primary industries workforce development, attraction and retention.
- Build food and beverage business capability across the value chain.
- Foster future scientific capability and capacity.

Digital capability

- Accelerate industry adoption of digital agriculture, precision livestock management and automation.

Market access and supply chain

Supply chain

- Support and influence investment in grain export supply chains, market access and premium segregations.
- Strengthen input supply resilience for growers, and food and beverage processors.

High-value processing

- Support investment in food processing and value-adding.
- Support industry adoption of proven technologies and processes in production and processing.

Market growth

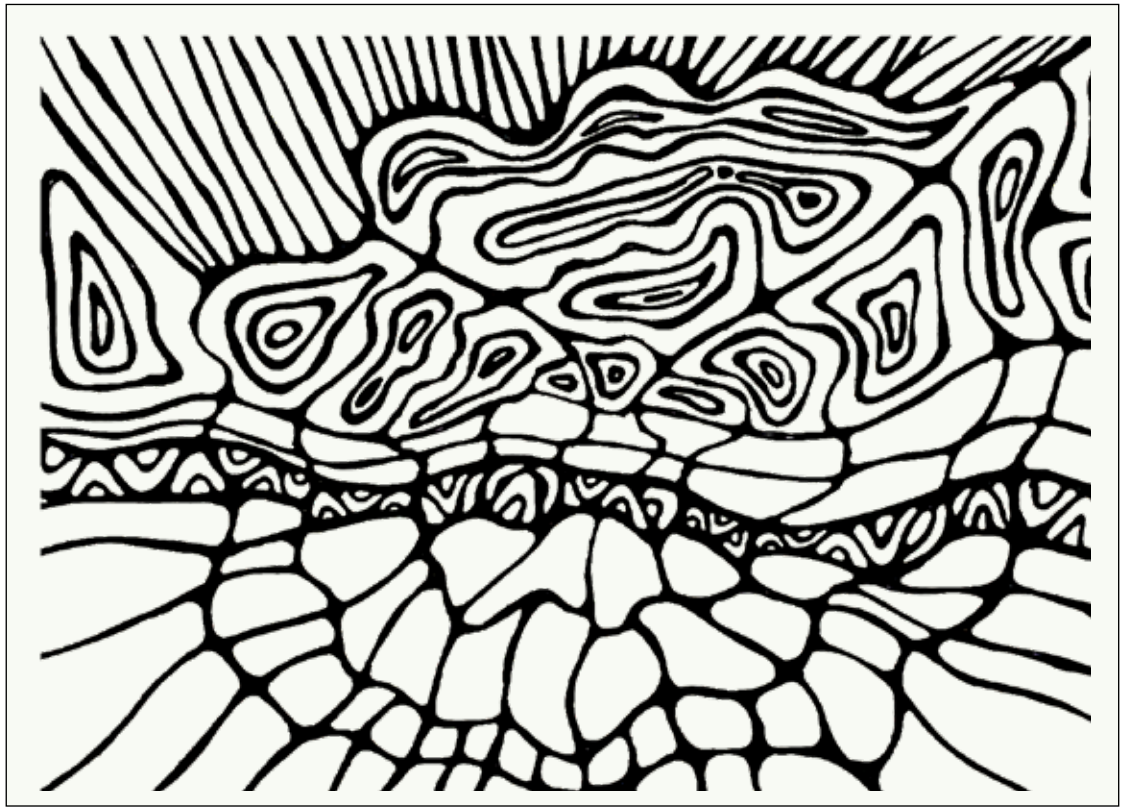
- Enable growth, diversification and private-sector investment in WA agriculture and aquaculture production.
- Support export and market development through the Invest and Trade WA Plan.

GrowingWA directs effort to resilience, capability, preparedness and long-term public value, with government investment concentrated on areas of clear public benefit, while industry, the private sector and market mechanisms continue to lead commercial activity and investment.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country and recognises their enduring connection to the land and waters.

DPIRD acknowledges their continuing cultures and values the contribution they make to the life of our regions. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Artwork by Dr Richard Walley OAM

Esteemed Noongar elder Dr Walley produced this original artwork for the DPIRD Nash Street site fit-out in 2021. The design is deeply connected to DPIRD's statewide operations across land and waters.

It includes stories and images of:

- subterranean - the foundation for the world we live in, with water and connections covering large distances
- land and river - the water is vital for Earth's life in all forms including plants, animals and people
- vegetation - plants and trees are a source of food, shelter and a sign of good earth
- sky - including clouds, condensation and precipitation which replenish the earth, connecting water from the sea back to the land.

Introduction

Growing WA: Agriculture 2035 (GrowingWA) sets the strategic framework for how the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) will prioritise investment, effort and decision-making over the next decade to strengthen Western Australia's (WA) agriculture and food sector.

Productive, resilient and enduring agriculture and food industries put food on our tables, sustain regional communities, create jobs and businesses, generate income and exports, attract investment and contribute to a diverse and resilient State economy. They also connect WA to consumers and markets around the world.

GrowingWA recognises the sector's critical role within the broader food system, encompassing supply chains, value chains and market outcomes. It provides a framework for evidence-based decision-making and guides the allocation of resources to areas where DPIRD can deliver the greatest long-term benefits for the sector and community.

GrowingWA also reflects DPIRD's broader responsibilities for biosecurity, fisheries, and land and water stewardship where they directly influence agriculture and food sector outcomes.

Over the next decade, the environment in which our primary producers and food businesses operate will continue to change. Climate variability, biosecurity threats, competition for natural resources, changing markets, population growth and rapid technological change will create both opportunities and challenges.

Research, development and extension are central to this task. Through science, long-term research capability, partnerships and the translation of research into practical solutions, DPIRD will support primary producers and businesses to improve productivity, manage risk, adopt new technologies and respond to changing conditions.

Through targeted investment in research, development, science, knowledge and system capability, GrowingWA focuses on building a more productive, resilient and sustainable agriculture and food sector. It will also support the conditions needed to attract investment, develop new industries and products, increase the value generated from WA production and strengthen the State's long-term production base.

Success will ultimately be reflected in what changes: stronger and more productive industries, increased and diversified production, greater adoption of research and innovation, increased investment, stronger regional economies and communities, a trusted reputation in our markets and natural resources capable of supporting production for generations to come.



Our context

The agriculture and food sector is a major contributor to WA's economy, supporting regional communities while providing safe, fresh and nutritious food to local and global consumers.

The sector continues to demonstrate strong growth and economic significance, with the gross value of production across WA at more than $11 billion (2023–24), and exports exceeding $13 billion, highlighting the sector's expanding contribution to the State's trade performance and prosperity.

WA's agriculture and food sector is navigating a period of significant change shaped by:

- climate variability and changing seasonal conditions
- increasing competition for land and water resources
- growing biosecurity risks
- rapid technological and digital transformation
- workforce and skills shortages
- geopolitical uncertainty and supply chain disruption
- evolving global market conditions
- changing consumer preferences and expectations.

These challenges are being compounded by population growth and shifting food consumption patterns, while advances in digital technologies, automation, genetics and data are transforming how food is produced, processed, distributed and consumed.

At the same time, significant opportunities are emerging. Growing global demand for premium food, feed and beverage products, coupled with advances in technology and opportunities for value-adding, are creating new pathways to lift productivity, strengthen competitiveness and grow WA's agriculture and food sector.

Realising these opportunities reinforces the importance of research, development and innovation. Maintaining strong scientific and research capability will ensure WA remains well positioned to anticipate and respond to emerging challenges, develop technologies and solutions tailored to our unique production environments and support industry to capitalise on emerging market and investment opportunities.

GrowingWA approach

GrowingWA is not simply about maintaining today's agriculture and food industries. It is about enabling them to grow, adapt and strengthen their contribution to WA's future.

In many regional communities, agriculture is more than an industry. It is part of the economic and social fabric, supporting local businesses and services, creating opportunity and contributing to the identity, connection and spirit of communities.

GrowingWA is about protecting that foundation while creating the conditions for productive and profitable industries, strong research and innovation, increased and diversified production, new investment and resilient regional communities to thrive.

The opportunities and challenges facing WA agriculture increasingly cross industries, disciplines and organisational boundaries. Climate, biosecurity, technology, markets and natural resource constraints cannot always be addressed effectively through isolated projects or short-term interventions.

To continue delivering value for primary producers, regional communities and WA, DPIRD needs to focus its investment where it can have the most enduring impact.

This does not mean stepping away from delivery. It means being clearer about the outcomes we are seeking, investing where government can make the greatest difference and evaluating whether that investment is delivering results.

GrowingWA shifts DPIRD's emphasis towards coordinated, evidence-based investment capable of delivering outcomes across industries and regions.

From previous practice to GrowingWA

Previous emphasis	GrowingWA emphasis
Supporting individual projects	Addressing sector-wide constraints
Responding to issues after they emerge	Improving preparedness and resilience
Stand-alone activities and projects	Coordinated programs and partnerships
Delivering outputs	Delivering outcomes and impact
Individual benefits	Public value and industry-wide outcomes
Short-term delivery	Longer term capability and resilience
Single issue interventions	Integrated system approaches
Activity based investment	Evidence-led investment and prioritisation

GrowingWA replaces the Primary Industries Plan 2020–2024 and is informed by both the 2025 evaluation, which highlighted the need for a longer-term horizon, clearer roles and sharper priorities, and extensive stakeholder consultation.

What GrowingWA covers

GrowingWA sets out DPIRD's priorities for WA's agriculture and food sector. This includes grains, horticulture, livestock and aquaculture, the associated supply chains, processing and food and beverage manufacturing that add value to these industries, and the stewardship of the land and water resources that support production.

GrowingWA does not describe every DPIRD activity related to primary industries. Instead, it focuses DPIRD's effort on the opportunities and challenges where government involvement can make the greatest long-term difference.

Some DPIRD responsibilities sit outside GrowingWA's priorities, although they underpin the sector's performance. For example, this includes work and services in biosecurity, wild-catch fisheries and aquatic resource management and our broader role in supporting regional development through the 9 development commissions.



Growing WA: Agriculture 2035

Vision A productive, sustainable and competitive agriculture and food sector that drives enduring prosperity for WA.

Objective Enable growth, productivity and resilience across WA's agriculture and food sector.

DPIRD strategic alignment

DPIRD leads the sustainable development of WA's regions and agriculture, food and fisheries sectors through delivering activities in 4 service areas, underpinned by enabling services:

- **Manage biosecurity** to safeguard from the risk and impact of biosecurity threats.
- **Manage land and aquatic resources** to enable the sustainable use and protection of natural land and aquatic resources.
- **Develop primary industries** to support robust agriculture and food industries.
- **Develop regions** to support prosperous regional communities.

The DPIRD Strategic Intent provides the overarching strategic direction for each service area and guides how the department undertakes planning, investment and decision-making.

GrowingWA supports the Strategic Intent by providing the focus areas, strategies and measures of success that guide DPIRD's efforts over the next decade in supporting WA's agriculture and food sector.



Roles we play

DPIRD supports the sustainable growth, resilience and competitiveness of WA's primary industries by administering and enforcing legislation, developing policy, and delivering services that protect biosecurity, animal welfare and natural resources.

We also generate and apply the science, research and knowledge needed to help WA primary producers and industries remain productive, profitable and competitive. Our researchers work with industry, universities, research organisations and primary producers to understand emerging challenges, test solutions in WA conditions and translate research into practical knowledge and technologies that can be adopted by industry.

DPIRD's role is to enable industry and system performance by addressing market failures, coordination challenges and shared risks where government intervention is needed to achieve public good outcomes.

This includes challenges that individual businesses cannot efficiently address alone, such as long-term research, biosecurity preparedness, market access, natural resource stewardship, shared data and infrastructure, and emerging risks.

In doing so, DPIRD helps industries build on the State's competitive advantages and reputation, supporting employment, food security, strong regional communities and broader economic prosperity, while safeguarding environmental and social values. As industries mature and become more self-reliant, DPIRD's focus is on creating the conditions for sustainable growth rather than substituting for commercial decision-making.

How we work

Lead - where DPIRD has clear authority, accountability and public-good responsibilities including policy development, regulation, research and science, data and strategic investment.

Coordinate - where outcomes require alignment across multiple organisations, sectors or levels of government, and DPIRD works through partnerships with stakeholders to support collective action.

Influence - where outcomes depend on collaboration or alignment with industry, markets, communities, research organisations and government partners.

Promote - where DPIRD strengthens awareness, confidence, reputation and adoption through communication, engagement, advocacy and evidence.

Support - where industry leads delivery and investment, and DPIRD contributes capability, knowledge, tools or enabling conditions.

Focus areas

To achieve the vision, GrowingWA prioritises effort and investment across 4 focus areas to deliver public value and support long-term sector performance.

These 4 focus areas and their strategies are expected to remain important across a range of future scenarios and are designed to help the sector respond to emerging challenges while capitalising on new opportunities.

Focus area 1 – Resilience

Strengthen industry resilience to climate, water, biosecurity, market and geopolitical risks.

Strategies	What we will do	Our priorities
Lead and **influence** sustainable management of land, healthy soils, water, input resources and enabling infrastructure.	• Lead science investigation, assessment and monitoring of soil, land, and water in food production systems. • Lead regulatory responsibilities for soil and land management. • Influence sustainable land and water practices. • Influence development and access to enabling infrastructure. • Influence cross-government negotiations for policy, regulatory settings and investment for the sector.	• Lead land manager stewardship to improve soil, water and native vegetation condition. • Influence access to water for food and livestock production and processing. • Assess land and water capability and risks to identify future production areas.
Lead and **support** targeted research, development and innovation into climate adaptation, biosecurity preparedness, and market expectations to influence sector resilience.	• Lead long-term research to identify emerging production risks and opportunities. • Lead and support research into profitable production systems under changing climate and limited-resource conditions. • Support solutions for climate adaptation and mitigation of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions. • Work with primary producers and industry to test solutions under WA conditions and support their adoption.	• Advance climate-ready grain, horticulture, livestock and aquaculture production systems. • Strengthen integrated pest and disease management and pollination security in production systems.
Support industry to build capability to sustainably manage natural resources, adopt innovation, and realise emerging opportunities to prepare and respond to future challenges.	• Support engagement and education for land managers on soil and land conservation. • Support conversion of climate science, trials and production-systems research into practical adaptation pathways. • Support the translation of emerging agricultural technologies into trusted, practical tools that improve everyday operations and management outcomes. • Strengthen extension and knowledge exchange so research findings reach the people who can use them.	• Deliver the WA Primary Production Adaptation Plan and lead drought resilience policy and programs. • Deliver government grant and assistance programs which focus on industry capability uplift. • Grow Aboriginal participation, enterprise and leadership in the agriculture and food sector.



Focus area 2 – Trust and reputation

Maintain trust in WA production systems and strengthen provenance.

Strategies	What we will do	Our priorities
Lead and **influence** policy, regulatory and accreditation systems that underpin sustainable production, market access and sector performance.	• Lead development of evidence-based policy, strategic, economic and regulatory advice. • Influence cross-government policy to create the enabling environment for investment. • Support accreditation and certification systems that provide market access. • Support licensing and regulatory processes in agricultural and aquaculture industries.	• Lead development of policy initiatives that reflect the importance of food production and security for the community. • Influence planning, environmental and nature policy reform for agriculture and food sector. • Influence accreditation and industry standards for agribusiness growth and market access.
Lead and **support** trusted data integration and digital systems to inform evidence-based decision making.	• Coordinate integration of research and data into decision-support tools that strengthen risk management. • Support development of data systems, integration and knowledge capability.	• Integrate research, farm and environmental data for risk-smart management and informed policy. • Build data and knowledge systems that grow the food and beverage industry.
Promote responsible practices that strengthen trust, transparency, traceability and community support.	• Lead evaluation of emerging market, consumer and regulatory expectations. • Promote responsible practices that enhance trust and transparency. • Influence traceability and integrity across production systems.	• Strengthen industry readiness for environmental markets, biofuels and low carbon agriculture. • Promote practices that enhance community confidence and compliance.
Promote WA's provenance and our premium reputation to strengthen market access, differentiation, investment attraction and competitiveness.	• Promote WA's sustainable, ethical food production systems. • Promote WA's local production strengths and premium reputation to enhance market differentiation and attract investment.	• Promote the WA agrifood story, buy local and support the Made in WA Plan.



Focus area 3 – Capability and knowledge

Lift capability and productivity through the adoption of research, innovation and technology.

Strategies	What we will do	Our priorities
Lead medium to long-term research, development and innovation to accelerate productivity, competitiveness and sustainable growth.	• Lead agricultural and aquaculture research that addresses future industry opportunities and challenges. • Lead strategic partnerships across industry, government and research organisations. • Lead research in technologies and production systems with broad adoption potential. • Connect research, extension and end users so new knowledge can be tested, demonstrated and adopted. • Maintain and develop the scientific capability needed to undertake long-term research in WA conditions. • Evaluate the adoption and impact of research.	• Drive diverse and efficient production systems. • Improve water and input use efficiency in agricultural production systems. • Maintain capability through investment in research partnerships and enabling infrastructure. • Accelerate industry adoption of innovation and best practice.
Support workforce capability through skills development, career pathways and technology adoption.	• Influence awareness of primary industries career pathways through information, resources and technology. • Influence migration strategies for primary industries. • Attract, develop and retain researchers and technical specialists in areas of strategic importance to WA's agriculture and food sector. • Work with industry, education and research partners to identify emerging skills needs.	• Support primary industries workforce development, attraction and retention. • Build food and beverage business capability across the value chain. • Foster future scientific capability and capacity.
Support digital capability and infrastructure investment to enable sector transformation.	• Lead development of data platforms and tools to support the agriculture and food sector. • Support adoption of innovation, digital technologies and new knowledge across the sector.	• Accelerate industry adoption of digital agriculture, precision livestock management and automation.



Focus area 4 – Market access and supply chain

Strengthen competitiveness, market access and supply chain performance.

Strategies	What we will do	Our priorities
Coordinate and facilitate investment in resilient and efficient supply chains, infrastructure and supporting systems.	• Coordinate economic and supply chain intelligence to inform investment and decision-making. • Facilitate enabling environment for investment. • Facilitate supply chain and value chain development. • Coordinate enabling infrastructure investment. • Support industry capability to respond to changing market conditions.	• Support and influence investment in grain export supply chains, market access and premium segregations. • Strengthen input supply resilience for growers, and food and beverage processors.
Support high-value, processing and advanced manufacturing, including scale, competitiveness, food innovation and new product development.	• Support business capability building in the food and beverage industry. • Support value-adding, processing, innovation, and transformative and scale-up manufacturing opportunities.	• Support investment in food processing and value-adding. • Support industry adoption of proven technologies and processes in production and processing.
Support market growth and diversification to capture emerging domestic and international opportunities.	• Coordinate market intelligence and understanding of future opportunities. • Support access to and capture value from domestic and international markets. • Promote WA products as premium, sustainable and traceable offerings.	• Enable growth, diversification and private-sector investment in WA agriculture and aquaculture production. • Support export and market development through the Invest and Trade WA Plan.

Cross cutting commitments

The following commitments are embedded across all focus areas and strategic priorities.

Aboriginal participation and partnerships

DPIRD will support increased Aboriginal participation, partnership opportunities and enterprise development across the agriculture and food sector.

Stewardship of natural resources

DPIRD will support sustainable management of soils, land, water and natural resources that underpin long-term productivity, environmental sustainability, landscape resilience and community confidence.

Regional communities

DPIRD will consider regional economic and community outcomes across GrowingWA, recognising the role agriculture and food industries play in regional employment, businesses, investment and community resilience.

Outcomes

GrowingWA will be successful when there is evidence that DPIRD's investment and actions are contributing to measurable improvements in the capability, performance and resilience of WA's agriculture and food sector.

Success will be demonstrated through advances in:



Productivity

Increased productivity across the agriculture and food sector.



Production

Growth of production and value-adding for domestic and international markets.



Reputation

Enhanced reputation as a trusted, responsible producer.



Stewardship

Improved condition of natural resources to support sustainable production.

Implementation

GrowingWA provides the overarching strategic framework for DPIRD's agriculture and food sector priorities. It will be supported by implementation plans that provide detailed direction.

These implementation plans will translate GrowingWA's strategies and priorities into actions and investments. They will guide resource allocation and identify the programs and initiatives through which GrowingWA will be delivered.

Future activities will be guided by a structured prioritisation approach that supports transparent and evidence-based decision making across the focus areas guided by 4 principles:

Evidence-led	Investment and prioritisation decisions will be informed by science, data, intelligence, projections and evaluation.
Partnership based	Where possible, delivery will leverage contribution and collaboration across industry, research organisations, Aboriginal stakeholders, regional communities and government.
Focused on public value	DPIRD will prioritise activities where government investment can deliver the greatest long-term benefit, without crowding-out private sector investment.
Adaptive and responsive	Implementation priorities may evolve in response to emerging opportunities, risks and changing operating conditions.

GrowingWA directs effort to resilience, capability, preparedness and long-term public value, with government investment concentrated on areas of clear public benefit, while industry, the private sector and market mechanisms continue to lead commercial activity and investment.



Image: Tassal

Measuring success

GrowingWA will be supported by a monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework that connects DPIRD's activities with the outcomes they are intended to achieve.

We will measure both sector performance and DPIRD's contribution to it. This distinction is important because seasonal conditions, commodity prices, international markets and other external factors influence sector results.

DPIRD's contribution will be assessed through evidence of:

- productivity and profitability improvements arising from research, development and innovation
- adoption and practical application of DPIRD research, technologies, tools and practices
- attracted or leveraged investment
- new or expanded production, processing and value-adding opportunities
- maintaining, improving or establishing market access
- improved preparedness and capability to respond
- Aboriginal participation
- stronger industry, regional, research and technical capability
- improvements in natural resource condition and management.

Key data including gross value of agricultural production (GVAP), export value, employment, and food manufacturing output will be used to assess long-term trends and sector performance over multiple years to account for seasonal variability, market fluctuations and other external influences.

Qualitative success measures will assess the extent to which GrowingWA has strengthened industry resilience, capability, collaboration, trust and preparedness. This will be informed through stakeholder feedback, case studies, evaluations, partnership outcomes and evidence of the adoption and application of DPIRD science, policy and innovation across the agriculture and food sector.

This approach supports assessment of both sector outcomes and DPIRD's contribution to those outcomes. It provides a clearer understanding of the impact of DPIRD's investment and effort over time, and progress towards our vision of an agriculture and food sector that drives enduring prosperity for WA.

Life of the plan

GrowingWA is intended to provide a long-term strategic framework to guide DPIRD's decision-making, investment and prioritisation over a 10-year period. While the vision, focus areas and strategic direction are designed to remain relevant across a range of future scenarios, GrowingWA will be reviewed periodically to ensure it remains aligned with government priorities, emerging evidence and the operating environment.

Significant changes in government policy, funding settings, market conditions, geopolitical factors, biosecurity risks or other major external influences may require the plan to be updated, revised or replaced.

Progress against the framework's measures of success will inform these reviews.



Important disclaimer

The Chief Executive Officer of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the State of Western Australia accept no liability whatsoever by reason of negligence or otherwise arising from the use or release of this information or any part of it.

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