



Private Property Rights & Resources

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Bulletin – 21st December 2012

AGRIFOOD – SKILLS AUSTRALIA

The Australian Government has established a new agency called the “Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency”. The new Agency replaces Skills Australia and according to Minister Evans will have a broader role in workforce development. Part of its role is to set priorities for the allocation of \$700m of Workforce Development funding set aside for work place training.

The NWDS enables businesses to partner with the Government to train and up skill workers by supporting employers to assess their training needs and then to deliver them in a way that suits their requirements. The scheme is fundamentally an industry buy in scheme or a co-contributing scheme whereby both industry and government contribute to skilling the workforce. The co contribution rate for small to medium business is between 33 and 50 per cent.

Any member wishing to participate in the scheme will need to contact the Industry Skill Council to discuss the skills sets relevant to agriculture. If you require further information or assistance contact Zak at PGA on 94794599 or email milanz@pgaofwa.org.au.

FIRST NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INVESTMENT PROSPECTUS

This week, Environment Minister Tony Burke released the Australian Government’s first national biodiversity investment prospectus: *One Land – Many Stories: Prospectus of Investment 2013-14*. The prospectus sets out the vision for the next phase of Caring for our Country from July 2013. It also sets out the context for future investment under the Biodiversity Fund, the Regional Natural Resource Management Planning for Climate Change Fund, and the Indigenous Carbon Farming Fund.

Application guidelines for programs under the prospectus will be released over the coming months. For those interested information on the prospectus is available at: www.environment.gov.au/prospectus

DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL FOREIGN OWNERSHIP REGISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL LAND

In October 2012, the Australian Government announced that it will implement a national foreign ownership register for agricultural land following consultations with stakeholders. The Government also announced that the final design of the register will take into account the need to improve transparency of foreign ownership in agricultural land without imposing unnecessary burdens on investors or duplicating work already undertaken by State and Territory Governments.

The Government has now established a departmental working group to canvass the issues and consult with the community on the development of a national foreign ownership register for agricultural land. The working group is now seeking views on a range of design and coordination issues associated with the implementation of a national foreign ownership register for agricultural land, and invites written submissions from stakeholders and the community in response to the consultation paper. Closing date is 1st February 2013.

For further details or if you wish to comment contact Zak at: milanz@pgaofwa.org.au.

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