



# Private Property Rights & Resources

## Bulletin – 18 September 2012

### **REFUNDS ON CONSERVATION TILLAGE EQUIPMENT**

Primary producers are now able to participate in research and apply for a 15 per cent refundable tax offset (RTO) on the purchase of new conservation seeding equipment. The equipment needs to be installed and ready for use between 1 July 2012 and 30 June 2015. The RTO is part of the Carbon Farming Futures Program under the Australian Government's Securing a Clean Energy Future plan. An eligible seeder is a no-till seeder that is:

- a tine machine fitted with minimum tillage points to achieve minimum soil disturbance and less than full cut-out (e.g. narrow points, knife points or inverted 'T' points)
- a disc opener (single, double or triple disc arrangements)
- a disc/tine hybrid machine (single, double or triple disc arrangements fitted with minimum tillage points to achieve minimum soil disturbance and less than full cut-out)
- a disc/blade hybrid machine (single, double or triple disc arrangements fitted with blades to achieve minimum soil disturbance and less than full cut-out).

Further information on the Conservation tillage refundable tax offset can be found on the Dept of Agriculture Fishery and Forestry and [ATO](#).

### **WATER SERVICES BILL**

The *Water Services Act 2012* received the Governor's assent on 3 September 2012. The intent of the bill is to streamline regulatory requirements and protect water service customers. For the first time, all water service providers will operate under the same set of powers and obligations. The changes will also allow the Aqwest Bunbury Water Board and Busselton Water Boards to offer a full range of water services. The new legislation also creates a water ombudsman and a supplier of last resort for the protection of water users. The *Water Services Act 2012* will not come into effect until the necessary supporting regulations have been drafted. It is expected that this will happen in mid 2013. If you have any queries regarding the Act please contact PGA or download from the following link.

[http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main\\_mrtitle\\_12961\\_homepage.html](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au/legislation/statutes.nsf/main_mrtitle_12961_homepage.html)

### **THE TRAINING COUNCIL (WA) INDUSTRY FORUM**

The Food, Fibre and Timber Industry Council (formally WA Primary Industry Training Council) conducted an Industry only Workforce Development forum to discuss the barriers industry has in obtaining labour and what strategies could be implemented to ensure a sufficient pool of labour into the future. The FFTI Training Council is now preparing its 2012 Industry Workforce Development Plan and is seeking input from industry to get a better understanding of the VET and workforce development needs and priorities. Members can assist by completing an online survey to determine future training needs. Please contact the FFTI Training Council direct or PGA for assistance.

### **DMP –REFORMING ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION**

The Working Groups are now well established and PGA has representatives on all four groups. Minutes of the meetings are available on the web and can be accessed by <http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/RER>

### **UPCOMING MEETINGS – 2012**

PGA Convention - 26 September; Pastoral - 17 October; Executive - 18 October; Kimberley Div. - 24 October

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