Fertilizer 2015 – Northern Promise
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GLOBAL DRIVERS

• 215,000 more people in the world today than yesterday
• 70% increase in global demand for food 2050
• Free Trade Agreement – improved access to import Australian foods and phased tariff removal on Australian imports
ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

• “We do not have the infrastructure requirements for an economy and a society that is well connected with Asia.” - Dr Ken Henry...Australian Newspaper 10th Feb 2014

• “There is enormous potential in the Asian century and we simply don’t have the infrastructure assets, the infrastructure services, to ensure that in the commercial space -- but also the social space -- we make the most of those connections.”

We need the private sector to invest, & we must create the opportunity for that.
The same area of Ord Stage 2 - June 2015.

Tail Water dam = 800ML

Same area of Ord Stage 2 in 1st crop June 2015 = Chia
A four-year $40 million government funded program as part of a larger $300 million Seizing the Opportunity Agriculture initiative to grow the agri food sector

- It aims to create new irrigation precincts and expand existing agriculture and pastoral opportunities
- It aims to increase Western Australia’s fresh food and animal protein production by at least 50 per cent by 2025 and twofold by 2050.
WATER FOR FOOD WILL PROVIDE

- Regional economic growth
- Employment growth
- Growing diversification
- Growing markets
- Aboriginal engagement

Aboriginal Partners - doing business in agriculture in the north means working with aboriginal people and aboriginal owned businesses.

- The demographics and challenges for aboriginal people speak for themselves and should be well understood.
- Major agricultural developments provide a significant opportunity for real involvement of aboriginal people in the economy.
The mission is not easy for agriculture development in the north......

- Economies of scale is critical for sustainability
- Investments in agriculture is long term – decades.
  - 5 years for KAI to plant a crop
- We all have a role to play.
- Regional employment and social reform wont happen if we don’t support development
- Local community and private developers need to drive development – government focus on approvals and sustainability.
- The role of traditional owners is critical. Good business is built on good relationships!

WATER FOR FOOD PROJECTS

- Projects based across Western Australia
- Tapping into under utilised water resources
- Capacity to expand and diversify existing irrigation districts
- It is a land tenure and water information project to encourage private sector investment at minimal public cost
MOWANJUM IRRIGATION TRIAL - example

• Funding partnership between the State Government and Mowanjum Aboriginal Corporation (with past ILC investment)
• 55,000 ha pastoral lease – prime grazing land
• Initial 38 ha intensive grazing trial using groundwater
• Herd count to rise from 3,000 to 15,000 in future years

Mowanjum irrigation trial – what it looks like today

• 50ha pivot site cleared
• 2x 300mm production bores drilled – pump tested at 70l/sec
• 6x monitoring bores drilled
• Centre pivot requires 66 l/sec
• Centre pivot has been commissioned
• Seeded with Rhodes grass
• Monitoring program in place and will weigh each animal daily – 700 weaners
• Will build agronomic and viability model based on evaluation
FITZROY VALLEY

- Groundwater investigations, development of land tenure models
- Estimated additional sustainable 200 gigalitres a year from Fitzroy River
- Large scale irrigation development
- Feed on cattle fattening across all seasons
- Expansion into higher value cropping
LA GRANGE

- Groundwater investigations, development of land tenure models
- Irrigated fodder for stand and graze and silage
- Cattle fattening across all season and move towards markets
- Significant potential for higher value agricultural production

LAND TENURE

- Land Tenure project is a key component of the Water for Food program
- Assist proponents to obtain a more secure land tenure
- Proponent driven
- Features a gateway approach
Key messages?

- Significant interest has already been generated
- Opportunity for large scale development
- Not easy – high risk / low gain
- Partnerships are important

QUESTIONS???
FURTHER INFORMATION

More information on the Water for Food program is available on the
Water for Food website
http://www.waterforfood.wa.gov.au
Twitter - #waterforfoodwa

or contact the Team at waterforfood@water.wa.gov.au