Green Growth Plan for 3.5 Million

An additional 1.5 million people in the Perth-Peel Region by 2050
Perth – Peel Region

- Situated in one of 34 global biodiversity hot-spots
  - The only one in Australia
- A comprehensive planning process – a key aim is to receive Federal Government environmental approvals.
  - P in waterways is a major environmental issue
  - Fertilizer on beef and dairy farms ~80%

Mandatory Soil Testing

- The main agricultural measure proposed is mandatory whole farm soil testing every three years.
- First round to be funded by the Government then by the land-owner.
- A CRIS has been promised for some time but not yet released.
- Fertilizer Australia and member companies have had direct input.
Mandatory Soil Testing

- Likely to adopt standard sampling and analysis.
- Will collect data.
- The issue of advice and practice change remains open.

- In the meantime…

Regional Estuaries Initiative and Revitalising Geographe Waterways

- $6.3 Million for sustainable agriculture
  - Fertilizer management
  - Dairy effluent management
- Sustainable Agriculture Project Reference Group
  - Reduce P in waterways
  - Encourage commercial soil testing
Fertilizer Management Project

- Program will provide
  - Soil sampling
  - Whole farm nutrient maps
  - Workshops on nutrient management
  - Ongoing advice from qualified advisors
  - Tissue testing
- Cost to new growers $300 per farm
  - Previously sampled $25/paddock
- Improved fertilizer practices
- Transition to commercial services

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Fertilizer Management Project

- Over 500 farms in four years
- Detailed advice is a resourcing issue
- Workshop on the fertilizer project recommended that Fertcare Accredited Advisor be the standard qualification for the panel of agronomists.
  - Details of access now under discussion
Fertilizer Australia

- Integrate Fertcare standards and advice programs for soil and plant testing measures.
- Facilitate engagement of industry and Fertcare community in extension activities.
- Facilitate workshops to achieve consensus on the science and standards adopted.