Myalup Primary Industries Reserve Project

About the MPIR project

The MPIR project is a department initiative that is investigating the potential to develop up to 1,500 hectares of new land for horticulture, located near the established Myalup horticultural district, in the Shire of Harvey.

Purpose

The MPIR project aims to support the growth of the horticultural industry in one of Western Australia's key fresh food production areas by:

- supporting the creation of local jobs
- boosting economic development in the region
- creating new opportunities for producers.

Project overview

Early planning stage

The MPIR is a long-term project, expected to be staged over the next 5 to 30 years.

The project is currently in the planning phase, with feasibility still being assessed and will be subject to a comprehensive approvals process before it can move forward.

At this early stage in the project's development, DPIRD is consulting with government agencies, environmental specialists, and other key local stakeholders to identify broader issues and opportunities. This step ensures that major considerations are addressed before moving into more detailed planning and community consultation.

Recreation and local amenities

The project is proposed to affect around 1,500 hectares of the broader 4,845-hectare pine plantation, carried out in stages over several years. Most of the pine trees will stay in place and are not part of the project area.

DPIRD will work with local stakeholders to ensure the 10th Light Horse Bridle Trail's connection through the proposed site is protected, with any recommended changes designed to maintain its usual use and enjoyment.

The department is also working with the Forest Products Commission (FPC) to secure alternative pine plantation land, ensuring the project does not adversely impact the state's pine supply or the FPC's operations.

Horticultural land use and residential buffers

The project site was chosen for several reasons including its alignment with nearby rural and priority agriculture land uses, and its soils, which are well-suited for horticulture.

Separation / buffering between sensitive areas (e.g. houses) and proposed new horticulture will be considered during planning. If feasible, forested buffers could offer several benefits, such as:

- reducing noise and dust
- providing visual screening
- supporting local wildlife and vegetation
- allowing people to continue enjoying the area for recreation.

Environmental and other investigations underway

The department has commissioned a comprehensive range of scientific investigations including flora and fauna surveys, waterway monitoring and modeling, Aboriginal heritage and bushfire risk assessment.

Investigations are also underway to assess and minimise potential impacts to black cockatoos in the area.

DPIRD is also undertaking a Transport Impact Assessment to determine the impact of the project on the road network and identify strategies to minimise it.

These studies will help inform environmental referrals and planning scheme changes, along with proposed management actions to address any potential impacts from the project.

All remaining native vegetation on the site is planned to be protected through dedicated conservation areas.

Horticulturalists will be required to prepare and implement Nutrient and Irrigation Management Plans and conduct site monitoring to ensure that land management practices remain within the state government's requirements.

The project will be considered under the following legislation to ensure a comprehensive and compliant review process:

- Western Australian *Environmental Protection Act 1986*
- *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth).

Sustainable future water supply

DPIRD recognises the changing climate conditions in WA's South West region including future water availability.

In seeking an environmentally sustainable water supply for the project, the department is investigating several possible source options including unallocated groundwater and potential new water supplies.

Social impact assessment

DPIRD has undertaken a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) to identify and assess the potential social impacts (both positive and negative) of the proposed project.

The SIA is a requirement of the proposed planning scheme amendments and will help establish a strong baseline for monitoring, evaluating and managing potential social impacts over time.

Further information

For more information, please visit our website: www.dpird.wa.gov.au/myalupreserve



Myalup Primary Industries Reserve – location.

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