

APRIL | 2024

UPDATES



Behind The Scenes

Julie Krieger

In exciting news for PCA and our members, Matt Plunkett has now joined the team in a part-time role helping with industry development and special projects. As IDO, Matt will focus on advocating for our members with industry bodies, and finding funding opportunities which will assist growers to move into, or upscale their PC activities, assisting in the delivery of a not-to-be-missed PCA 2025, and working with the PCA team to create and deliver member benefits that help our members to thrive.

"I am delighted to be back assisting growers and industry to advance their businesses and grow our sector." Matt said.

PCA, our members and the industry could not be in better hands. Matt can be contacted outside of normal business hours:

0434 147 988, ido@protectedcropping.net.au

IDO Update

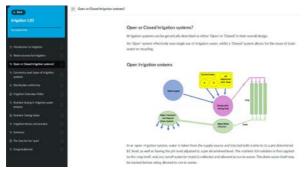
Matt Plunkett

PCA has re-engaged with the Australian Building Codes Board to advocate for protected cropping-favourable inclusions in the National Construction Codes (NCC) 2025 iteration. In particular, PCA is working to ensure the inclusion of PC structures in the lower-graded categories for fire and egress requirements, and is seeking further considerations in the form of separate PC categories altogether in the 2028 iteration of the NCC.

PCA and University of New England (UNE) are in discussions regarding the next update to the immensely valuable Australian map of Protected Cropping. Proving to be a critical tool for the sector, the map will be updated in the coming year. The current map will be available via the PCA website soon, and can be viewed now via the link below.

https://www.une.edu.au/connect/news/2023/01/ma pping-australias-protected-crops







Projects

Tony Bundock

Following the very successful workshop/seminar on the 11th of March for growers in the Coffs Harbour region focussing on the formulation of nutrient recipes for both run to waste and recycling systems, a follow up session has now been planned in conjunction with Local Land Services NSW for the 15th of April. The intent of this event is to allow growers to look at their drip and drain water test results, and evaluate them on a one on one basis with a member of the presentation team. This event will be held between 3pm and 4:30pm, and if you would like to attend, please indicate this via email to Tony Bundock.

Ther online learning platform continues to expand, and this week we will be seeing the launch of the 'Protected Cropping' resource. This online course provides an overview of the various components that go towards a protected cropping system and is



intended as an initial guide for prospective new entrants to the industry.

Currently we are looking at hosting another grower seminar and as soon as we have all the details finalised these will be promoted in our social media platforms – stay tuned!

GROWER UPDATES

Did you know we have an Industry Advisory Council?

The Industry Advisory Council (IAC) meets every second month and is led by our Deputy Chair, Andrew McIlwain.

If you would like to hear more or become a part of this vital group, please **get in touch** with us.

Do You Have Something To Share?

PCA

Growers, do you have something to share? This is your space! We'd love to hear from you.

If you have something to share with the PCA membership, or would like to get word out to other growers, **send us an email** with your article or content, and we'll work with you to make sure it gets out there!



EVENTS

APRIL MAY MAY



Nutrient Management Workshop - Follow Up

Learn more →



Fair Talk By Fair Farms -Safety On Farms

Learn more →



HFF Conference - Early Bird Registrations

Learn more →

INFORMATION

NATIONAL

NEWS



Have your say - National Water Agreement

Learn more →

NEWS



AIPH International Hort Expo News

Learn more →

NEWS



VICCHEM Appoints Angus Roney

Learn more →

RESEARCH

SURVEY

UPDATE



CSIRO Grower Interview

Learn more →



Freshcare Standards Review

Learn more \rightarrow



CCC Blueberry Open Day - Report

Learn more →

QUEENSLAND

AWARDS



Awards for Excellence 2024 Nominations!

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NEW SOUTH WALES

GRANTS



On-Farm Grants -Intensive Horticulture

Learn more \rightarrow

FLORA CULTURE INTERNATIONAL

MONTH 2024



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