

Changes at PCA

Australia's protected cropping industry is going ahead in leaps and bounds, according to Nicky Mann, the chair of Protected Cropping Australia.

The protected cropping industry is the fastest growing food producing sector in Australia, now valued at around \$1.8 billion at the farm gate per annum. This is equivalent to 20% of the value of total vegetable and cut flower production in Australia (RIRDC report HSA-9A). It is estimated that more than 10,000 people are employed directly in greenhouse horticulture throughout Australia, with the industry expanding at between 4-6% pa. The average return on investment is between 5% and 10%, with the potential return on investment for high technology greenhouse vegetable enterprises as high as 20-25% pa.

Over the past year, the PCA board has been working to develop a strategy to raise the profile of the industry and to ensure strong representation for all participants in the sector. As part of this plan, Ms Mann today announced the appointment of Jan Davis as PCA's first ever Executive Officer.

Jan has held leadership roles in a number of industry groups in the agriculture sector, including the Agribusiness Australia, the Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association, Growcom (Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers), Greening Australia, the Australian Mushroom Growers Association, and the Nursery and Garden Industry Association of Australia. As CEO of these organisations, she has earned a reputation as an innovative thinker and a driver of change.

"I am absolutely delighted by Jan's appointment. She has a wealth of experience and the knowledge to get the job we want done, and I am extremely proud of the current Board for being bold enough to make the changes needed to achieve the outcomes we want to see happen," Ms Mann said.

Ms Davis said "PCA is entering a new, exciting and challenging stage, and I am honoured to be afforded the opportunity to take on an expanded role to work with the Board, members and other stakeholders to realise the vision that has been developed during the past year."

Long-serving association administrator, Saskia Blanch, has moved on to new challenges and no doubt all members will wish her well.

"Going forward, we now have a strong team in place to ensure PCA is delivering value to our growers, allied trade, sponsors and business partners. It's a win-win situation for our fast-paced and ever-evolving industry," Ms Mann said.

Tasmanian Grower Tour

There are still some places left on our grower tour next week 21-22 February – hurry if you don't want to miss out!



The tour will visit:

- Blokker Freesias
- Brandsema Hydroponic Tomatoes
- The Berry Patch - Farm and Cafe for lunch
- Agvita Analytical Laboratory
- Tasmanian Berries
- Burlington Berries



GUEST SPEAKERS

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ACCOMMODATION

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COST incl GST

\$285 PCA Members

\$560 Non-members

Includes Gala Dinner at Josef
Chromy Winery 21/2/19 sponsored
by Ecomix. (Additional Gala Dinner tickets
at \$90 pp)



RSVP phone 0409 004 228 or email
admin@protectedcroppingaustralia.com



Important message to all businesses exporting by air

From 1 March, Australian-based exporters and freight forwarders will need to adopt enhanced security measures for the preparation of all international air cargo. These will mean that export air cargo, regardless of destination, will need to be examined at piece-level or originate from a Known Consignor.

Exporters have two options for meeting these requirements:

1. Using an Australian Government-approved Regulated Air Cargo Agent who can examine your air

cargo at piece-level. Piece-level means that every individual box, carton or any other items in a shipment must be thoroughly examined by technology, or physically inspected before it is loaded onto an aircraft.

2. Being approved as a [Known Consignor](#), so you can secure air cargo originating from your business. The Department of Home Affairs is currently working with a range of agricultural growers and exporters seeking approvals to become a Known Consignor. A full list of approved Known Consignors can be found [here](#).

The Department of Home Affairs has released a [countdown notice](#) detailing what your business needs to consider in order to prepare for the new security arrangements. Due to the complexity of individual arrangements, businesses are encouraged to contact their air cargo supply chain partners to discuss how the changes may impact export operations. If your business consolidates products exported by air, you should also consider advising your suppliers (e.g. growers) of any potential impacts of the new security requirements.

Further assistance

The Australian Government has developed a number information services to assist businesses with implementation. The Department of Home Affairs (the responsible agency) has [information](#) on the requirements on their website and can be contacted at guidancecentre@homeaffairs.gov.au or on +61 1300 791 581.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources has a [webpage](#) which includes a number of Frequently Asked Questions relevant to agriculture exporters. Information is also available on the [Austrade webpage](#).

If you have any specific feedback that you would like to share with Austrade, please respond via email to Food-Agri@austrade.gov.au

PCA 2019 Conference

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