2013 WA Sustainable Agriculture Forum program*
Friday, 6 September 2013 | Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle

A productive and resilient natural resource base underpins our ability to tackle growing world demand for food and climate challenges. Join thought-leaders, experts and colleagues for a cutting-edge program discussing sustainability outcomes for a profitable and productive agricultural industry.

The forum will incorporate a panel discussion with leading representatives from broadacre, livestock and horticultural industry organisations; industry funding bodies; grower and NRM groups; and the agricultural consulting sector, who will offer their perspectives on critical issues facing the sustainable use of the state’s land and water resources and invite questions from delegates.

Launch of the Report card for sustainable natural resource use in agriculture
The Department of Agriculture and Food, WA will officially present its Report card for sustainable natural resource use in agriculture – a comprehensive health check on the state of land and water resources in WA’s agricultural region and suggested practical measures to help meet the challenges of sustainable resource use in agriculture.

Who should attend
• Scientists and academics working in agriculture, NRM, RD&E
• Representatives from NRM, grower and industry groups
• Representatives from agricultural/NRM funding bodies
• Agricultural consultants
• State and local government policy makers and resource planners/managers
• Tertiary and post-graduate agricultural and NRM students

Program

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>8:15 – 8:45</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45</td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Welcome Rob Delane Director General Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA)</td>
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<td>Opening address</td>
<td>Emeritus Professor Alan Robson, Former vice-chancellor (University of Western Australia)</td>
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Session 1

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<tr>
<th>Setting the scene</th>
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<tr>
<td>Chair: Dr Melanie Strawbridge, Director (DAFWA)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Report card on sustainable natural resource use</th>
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<td>Noel Schoknecht, Science Leader – Soils (DAFWA)</td>
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<td>Presentation of the results of the Report Card including the current state and trends in land and water resource condition in WA’s southwest agricultural region.</td>
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<th>WA perspective on making agriculture sustainable</th>
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<td>John Ruprecht, Executive Director (DAFWA)</td>
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<td>Challenges in responding to the findings of the Report Card and shared responsibility across research, government (state and federal), industry and community.</td>
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<th>Questions to speakers</th>
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<th>Morning Tea</th>
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### Session 2
**Making sense of sustainable natural resource use in agriculture**  
Chair: Dr Melanie Strawbridge, Director (DAFWA)

**Sustainable agriculture futures**  
Dr Peter Stone, Deputy Director (CSIRO Sustainable Agriculture Flagship)  
A perspective from one of sustainable agriculture’s leading scientists on what forces will shape the future of agriculture and whether we have the capacity to respond? What is in the sustainable agriculture research and development pipeline?

**Sustaining natural resources profitably**  
Kevin Goss, Senior Honorary Research Fellow (University of Western Australia)  
An overview of successful examples of profit and market-based drivers of sustainability – and a glimpse into unconventional industry partnerships from one of Australia’s most experienced and respected natural resource management scientists.

**Economics of sustainable agriculture**  
Professor Ross Kingwell, Economist (DAFWA)  
Can WA farmers afford to protect or improve their natural resources in the face of increasing debt and climate change? Do the most profitable farmers share anything in common and if adopted widely, can these lead to a greater ability to invest in resource protection?

### Questions to speakers

### Lunch

### Session 3
**In practice**  
Chair: John Ruprecht, Executive Director (DAFWA)

**Sustainable agriculture – utopia, dystopia or myopia? A farmer’s viewpoint**  
Sue Middleton, Farmer and 2010 Rural Woman of the Year  
A first-hand perspective on whether farmers can achieve sustainable farm practices that actively support society’s economic, social, environmental and cultural values. What are the key challenges?

**New approaches and understanding in sustainable land management**  
Professor Richard Bell, Sustainable Land Management (Murdoch University)  
*To be confirmed*

### Questions to speakers

### Session 4
**Future focus**  
Chair: John Ruprecht, Executive Director, DAFWA

**Climate change and opportunities for agriculture**  
Professor Richard Harper, Alcoa Chair in Sustainable Water Management (Murdoch University)  
*To be confirmed*

### Afternoon tea

**Vision for sustainable agricultural development**  
Paul Rosair, Director General (Department of Regional Development)  
A science-based approach to the planning and sustainable development of WA’s land and water resources for improved environmental outcomes for the future.

### Questions to speakers

### Session 5
**Panel Discussion: Tackling tomorrow’s challenges together**  
A panel of leading representatives from broadacre, livestock and horticultural industry organisations; Commonwealth and industry funding bodies; grower and NRM groups; and the agricultural consulting sector will offer their perspectives on the critical issues facing the sustainable use of the state’s land and water resources.

### Session 6
**Where to from here?**  
John Ruprecht, Executive Director (DAFWA)  
How can we build on the existing strengths and address weaknesses in the sustainable management of land and water resources, while supporting profitable agriculture?

### 16.45 Close

*Program may be subject to change*