



# Providing smaller farmers flexibility to meet harvest needs

## What is the Regional Pilot?

The Australian Government's Seasonal Worker Programme Regional Pilot, is designed to help smaller farmers meet workforce shortages in the following pilot regions, effective from 1 May 2019:

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria);
- Goulburn/Murray (Victoria); and
- Riverina (NSW).

From **1 January 2020**, an additional pilot region was established:

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria).

SWP Employers under the Pilot will have greater flexibility to move seasonal workers – from Pacific Island countries and Timor-Leste – between farm placements during their visa period, without prior approval by the department. This flexibility will allow SWP Employers to meet the workforce needs of smaller farmers with short harvest seasons and those with unpredictable picking period.

On 19 November 2019, the Australian Government announced that the Regional Pilot would be extended until **30 June 2022**.

## How to get involved

You are encouraged to contact 'Regional Pilot Approved Employers' who will manage the hiring logistics of seasonal workers.

Approved Employers will work with you to coordinate farm placements.

They will also work with Regional Coordinators from the Department of Education, Skills and Employment, along with Fair Work Ombudsman Inspectors, to ensure workplace health and safety obligations during the placements are met.

## Need longer-term resourcing solutions?

If you have complex and longer-term resourcing needs, you can apply to participate in the established Seasonal Worker Programme.

Since its establishment in 2012, it has a proven track record to help the agricultural industry address its labour needs. It also further contributes to the economic development of seasonal workers' home countries.

## Find out more

More information can be found at:

Website: [www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme](http://www.dese.gov.au/seasonal-worker-programme) and [www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/403-](http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/trav/visa-1/403-)

Email: [seasonalworker@dese.gov.au](mailto:seasonalworker@dese.gov.au)

Phone: +61 2 6240 5234

## Regional Pilot Approved Employers

Smaller farmers in the Riverina, Sunraysia, Goulburn/Murray and Wimmera Mallee can contact the following Approved Employers to discuss their workforce needs:

### Connect Group Pty Ltd

Phone 0417 347 716

Email [mfryszter@theconnectgroup.com.au](mailto:mfryszter@theconnectgroup.com.au)

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)
- Riverina (NSW)
- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Farmers Workforce Australia

Phone 0409 501 049

Email [Caren.Brown@farmersworkforce.com](mailto:Caren.Brown@farmersworkforce.com)

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)
- Riverina (NSW)
- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Kyshan Pty Ltd T/A Top of the Crop

Phone 0429 984 529

Email [lawrie.brown@topofthecrop.com.au](mailto:lawrie.brown@topofthecrop.com.au)

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)
- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Jobs Australia

Phone 07 4061 7149

Email [emma.binello@speediestaffsolutions.com.au](mailto:emma.binello@speediestaffsolutions.com.au)

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Australian Seasonal Workers

Phone 03 5039 5500

Email [admin@aussieworkers.com.au](mailto:admin@aussieworkers.com.au)

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Riverland Labour Hire

Phone 0402 439 007

Email [john@rockfordhomes.com.au](mailto:john@rockfordhomes.com.au)

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Plant Grow Pick

Phone 0417 217 505

Email [admin@plantgrowpick.com](mailto:admin@plantgrowpick.com)

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)
- Riverina (NSW)
- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### MADEC Australia

Phone (03) 5025 4042

Email [madecswp@madec.edu.au](mailto:madecswp@madec.edu.au)

- Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)
- Goulburn/Murray (Victoria)
- Riverina (NSW)
- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Washpen Labour Hire Pty Ltd

Phone 0408 758 629

Email [hr@murphyfresh.com.au](mailto:hr@murphyfresh.com.au)

- Goulburn/Murray (Victoria)

### Sam Romeo Contracting

Phone 0419 191 204

Email [sam.romeo@bigpond.com](mailto:sam.romeo@bigpond.com)

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

### Suvarnabhumi Pty Ltd

T/A Orchard Tech

Phone 0439 323 232

Email [hari@orchardtech.com.au](mailto:hari@orchardtech.com.au)

- Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

## Regional Coordinators

Please contact the Regional Coordinators to find out more about the Regional Pilots in your local area:

### Adrian McMahon – Goulburn/Murray (Victoria)

Phone: (03) 5430 5601 | Mobile: 0476 529 890 | Email [Adrian.McMahon@dese.gov.au](mailto:Adrian.McMahon@dese.gov.au)

### Sam Testa – Sunraysia (NSW/Victoria)

Phone: (03) 5430 5698 | Mobile: 0407 552 808 | Email: [sam.testa@dese.gov.au](mailto:sam.testa@dese.gov.au)

### Brian Weiss – Riverina (NSW)

Phone: (02) 6240 7556 | Mobile: 0412 425 125 | Email: [brian.weiss@dese.gov.au](mailto:brian.weiss@dese.gov.au)

### Alastair Mitton – Wimmera Mallee (Victoria)

Phone: (03) 5430 5602 | Mobile: 0409 673 126 | Email: [Alastair.Mitton@dese.gov.au](mailto:Alastair.Mitton@dese.gov.au)