



Lower
Blackwood LCDC

Southern Dirt – Lower
South West Hub

Food Production in the AMR Shire: Productivity, Diversity, Potential

Who we are



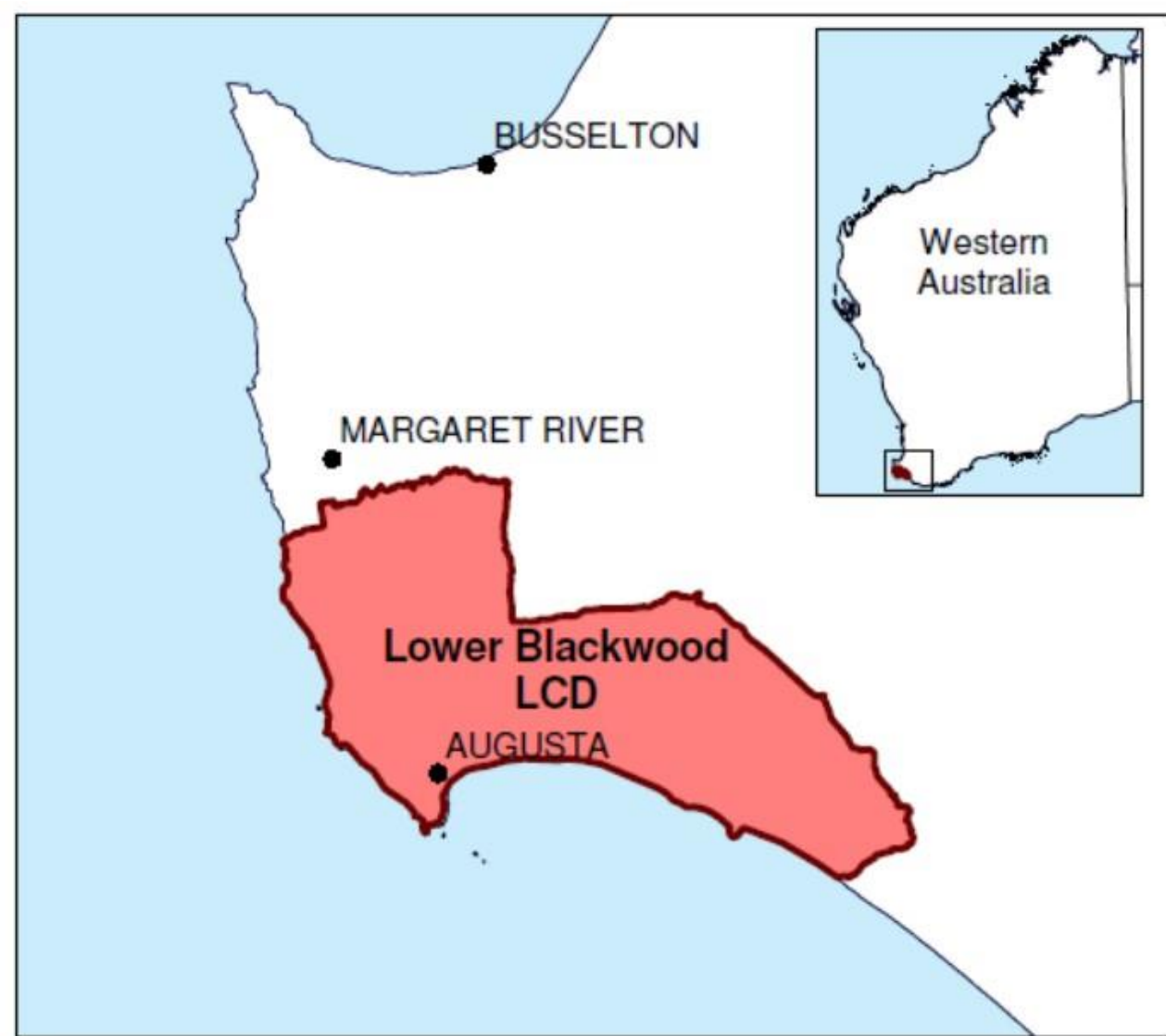
- The Lower Blackwood LCDC is a statutory Landcare group that sit beneath the Soil Commissioner under and the Soil and Land Conservation Act
- Formed in 1991 by a group of volunteer farmers and today we have a robust committee formed of:
 - *Local farmers and landowners*
 - *Augusta-Margaret River and Nannup Shire rep*
 - *DPIRD rep*
 - *DBCA rep*



Where we are



- Today our district includes Augusta to Redgate, Witchcliffe, Rosa Glen, Warner Glen, Forest Grove and Scott River
- Includes the largest river system in the South West – The Blackwood and the Hardy Inlet
- Aprox 2/3 of our district in in the AMR Shire and 1/3 in the Shire of Nannup



OUR VISION

Our group works to promote a sustainable agriculture community in the Blackwood Region, where sustainability is measured in economic, social and environmental terms



Who we are



- Southern Dirt is an Incorporated not-for-profit agricultural research and extension group in the Southern region of WA.
- The group was formed in 2010 when a number of farmers and industry professionals who had come to know and trust each other decided to do something for themselves and their communities in a region.
- Southern Dirt has the largest total area of all grower groups in the South West with over 2300 farming entities predominantly grazing and cropping in the region.



Who we are



- Have been working with the 'Hub' principle which has led to the establishment of the 'Lower South West' Hub and a strong partnership with the Lower Blackwood LCDC
- Southern Dirt have now extended their region to a size that is able to compete nationally for industry levy-funded research and bring back much needed on-ground trials, projects and other R&D into our region



AG IN THE AMR SHIRE – WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

- Beef
- Viticulture
- Dairy (Dryland and Irrigated)
- Sheep
- Horticulture
- Forestry
- Fishing





AG IN THE AMR SHIRE – WHAT HAVE WE GOT?

DIVERSITY

- Diversity in Sector
- Diversity in Size
- Diversity in Farming Methods
- Diversity in Markets

Our Agriculture Sector:

\$135.483 million

AMR Shire 2016 Economic Development Strategy rated the Ag Sector as the 4th largest economic contributor to the Shire (behind Manufacturing, Construction and Tourism)

The highest number of businesses

Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing have the highest number of businesses in the Shire

Food Bowl Potential

- Soils
- Water
- Climate
- Location



AG IN THE AMR SHIRE – WHAT DO WE NEED?

- An **up-to-date** 'Snapshot' of the Lower South-West's Agriculture Industry and Region
- Production of the '**South West Ag Futures Industry Snapshot Report**'

A photograph of three young women standing behind a metal fence in a farm setting. They are all smiling and wearing blue gloves. The woman on the left has blonde hair and is wearing a dark jacket. The woman in the middle has blonde hair and is wearing a green hoodie. The woman on the right has red hair and is wearing a dark jacket. In the background, there are several black and white cows. A large black circle is overlaid on the top left of the image, containing white text.

AG IN THE AMR SHIRE – WHAT DO WE NEED?

- The development of a modelling/mapping system to determine the **future potential of production** and value adding in the region, increasing and strengthening industry, business and community growth and development

AG IN THE AMR SHIRE – WHAT DO WE NEED?

- A strong **network** and **link** between:

- Growers and markets
- Growers and research
- Growers and infrastructure
- Growers and tourism

What's happening already?

- Southern Dirt - Lower South West Hub:

- *Establish research priorities and highlight the potential for new industries (e.g. cropping)*
 - *Position the region as a leader in R&D and Ag*
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- Identification of key growing areas within the Shire and their potential for Agricultural growth
 - *The Scott River Focus*





THERE IS [CURRENTLY] A FOOD SYSTEM AND I AM IN IT.
IT'S JUST WHETHER OR NOT IT HAS BEEN USED OR
DEVELOPED TO ITS POTENTIAL...

—**ANON**

*Stocker, L and Burke, G (2017) 'Towards a Sustainable Lower Blackwood
Region: A whole of landscape perspective*



Thankyou

