



Lower  
Blackwood LCDC

Southern Dirt – Lower  
South West Hub

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



# Who we are



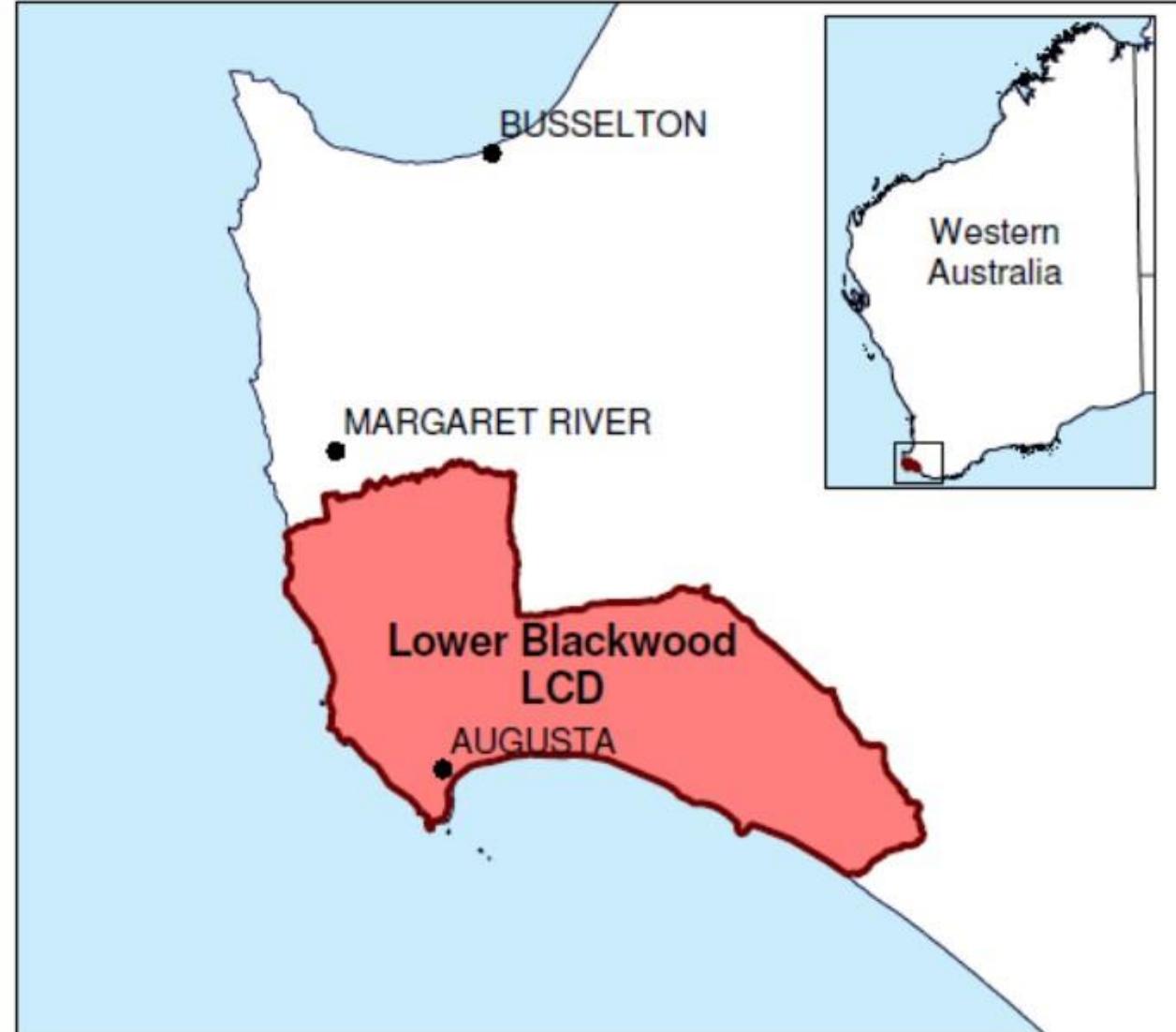
- The Lower Blackwood LCDC is a statutory Landcare group that sit beneath the Soil Commissioner under and the Soil and Land Conservation Act
- Formed in 1991 by a group of volunteer farmers and today we have a robust committee formed of:
  - *Local farmers and landowners*
  - *Augusta-Margaret River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

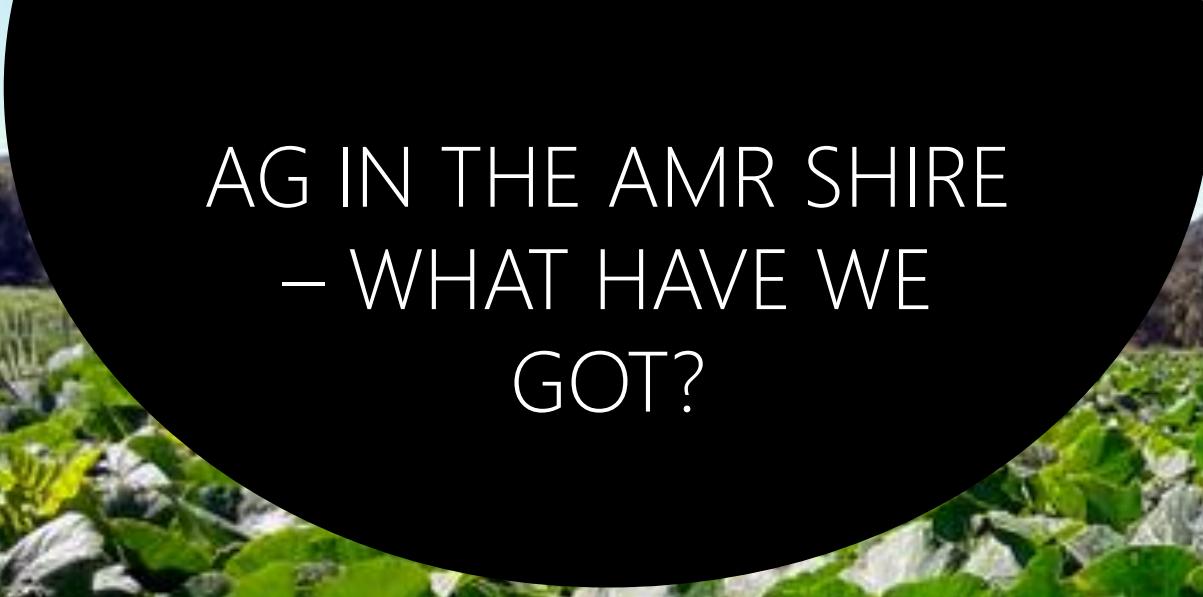


# AG IN THE AMR SHIRE

## – 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**

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

**The highest number of businesses**

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

**Food Bowl Potential**

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- 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'**



# 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?

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- 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*
- Identification of key growing areas within the Shire and their potential for Agricultural growth
  - *The Scott River Focus*



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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

