

9 September 2009

Dear Sir / Madam

### **G21 Agribusiness Forum Introduction**

The four councils; City of Great Geelong, Surf Coast Shire, Golden Plains Shire and Colac Otway Shire have joined together with industry stakeholders to form the G21 Agribusiness Forum. An interim twelve month board has been formed the members being:

**Jim** Bufton Chair - Farmer Bellbrae

**Alan** Billing Deputy Chair - Farmer Colac

**Russell** Coad – Farmer, Golden Plains

**Porta** Kakourous - Hydroponics Torquay

**Adrian** Kennelly - RMCG Consultant

**Scott** Williams - SED Consulting Ballarat

**Laurie** Norman – Central Highlands Agribusiness Forum

**Wayne** Stephen - Rural Financial Counselling Service

**David** Lean – Department Primary Industries

**Cathy** Mulligan - Department Primary Industries

**Darrel** Brewin – Darrel Brewin & Associates Pty Ltd Consultant

**James** Knight – Farmer Golden Plains

**Stewart** Marshall – Steggles Golden Plains

**Mike** Fitzpatrick – Pettavel Winery & Restaurant CoGG

**Laurie** Forster – Farmer Golden Plains

**David** Gillet – Jalna South Farmer CoGG

**Damien** Carter – Officer Golden Plains Shire

**Mike** Barrow Colac – Officer Otway Shire

**Bill** Johnsen – Officer City of Greater Geelong

**Daryl** Treloar – Officer Surf Coast Shire

Agribusiness forums are generally independent community bodies, represented and driven by the agribusiness sector that seeks to understand local capability and develop sustainable competitive activities and industries within a region. Stakeholders are usually drawn from regional agribusiness industries such as primary producers, processors, service providers, transport providers, exporters, agents, education providers along with local, state and federal government organizations.

#### **The Mission:**

The G21 Agribusiness Forum will be a coordinated voice for the entire agribusiness sector of the G21 region, undertaking targeted activities and projects that increase the prosperity and satisfaction of the sector and its participants.

The G21 Agribusiness Forum exists to promote the prosperity of the entire agribusiness sector of the G21 Region. It provides a coordinated voice capable of maximising resourcing opportunities for the sector and harnessing those resources to undertake activities and projects that include, but are not limited to:

- Advocacy for the sector within the community and at all levels of Government;
- The encouragement of innovation, including better farming systems, new enterprise development and new value chains – through applied R&D and extension, demonstration sites, seminars;
- Increased sustainability: improved natural resource management, conservation of water, low carbon-emission practices, adaptation to climate change, risk management tools, renewable energy from agriculture – through applied R&D and extension, demonstration sites, seminars, catalysing infrastructure projects (e.g. renewable energy production facilities); Support and encouragement for improved infrastructure and logistics: better transport options, availability of infrastructure such as feed mills, grain handling facilities, saleyards, water security, coordinating and lobbying activities;

- More effective marketing: regional marketing and supply chain initiatives, learning opportunities such as seminars on marketing options; and
- People development: succession, leadership programs assisting personal skills development, networking and greater understanding of major agribusiness issues, and capacity building initiatives such as coordination of learning opportunities

We are writing to you to ask if you would like to be involved in the G21 Agribusiness Forum. By becoming a member, you will receive updates of the Forum's activities, including invitations to seminars and training days and reports arising from projects. You may wish to become active on the board of the Forum. The more members the Forum has, the greater the opportunity to attract support from government and the private sector to help agribusiness prosper in the region.

By way of example, the G21 Agribusiness Forum recently supported a seminar on soil sequestration of carbon in Geelong. We are also sponsoring the following events:

- A Succession, Retirement and Estate Planning Workshop to be held on 28 September 2009
- The FarmReady Reimbursement Grant program by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- An upcoming AgFutures Forum and Discussion: Diversification, Carbon Toolkits and Soil Biology;
- The development of a leadership program for rural women.

We are excited about a range of opportunities that will be coming up in the near future.

Membership is **free** and only requires you to fill in the information below and return it to us. We will not share your details with anyone else and you may cancel your membership at any time.

Could you please email this section to [dtreloar@surfcoast.vic.gov.au](mailto:dtreloar@surfcoast.vic.gov.au) or post to:

Daryl Treloar  
 Business and Rural Development  
 Surf Coast Shire  
 P.O. Box 350 Torquay

If you have any enquiries concerning this matter please contact Daryl Treloar on 03 5261 0656.

Yours faithfully



**Jim Bufton**  
 Chair G21 Agri Business Forum



For:  
**Alan Billing**  
 Deputy Chair G21 Agri Business Forum

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I/We wish to be included in the G21 Agribusiness Forum

Trading Name (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (this is very helpful and a cost effective contact tool)

Other contacts

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_