

IS THERE A SKILLS SHORTAGE IN HORTICULTURE IN THE RIVERINA?

Regional Development Australia (RDA) Riverina will bring together key industry stakeholders to discuss the needs of the Riverina horticulture industry in attracting, retaining and developing skilled workers.

As RDA Riverina Executive Officer Rachel Whiting explains, anecdotal evidence from growers and industry suggests there is a skills shortage in horticulture in the Riverina.

“We’re inviting key industry stakeholders to three consultation workshops to establish and validate the extent of the issue.

“RDA Riverina is examining the skills issues and shortages in the horticulture industry, which includes the irrigation crops of citrus, tree nuts and vegetables, the wine grape industry and the cooler climate apple and other pome fruit industry.

“By looking at data from industry and training providers, current literature and community consultation, we’re seeking to determine if there are issues affecting the horticulture industry and, if so, to suggest strategies to address such skills issues.”

Three stakeholder consultation workshops will be held in Yanco on July 18, Wagga Wagga on July 20 and Batlow on July 21. An [online survey is also](#) open until August 4.

Sustainable agriculture specialist Clinton Muller will be guest presenter at each workshop. Clinton has extensive experience in horticulture and intensive production systems, and has previously developed a skills formation strategy for horticulture industries in Queensland.

These workshops are part of skills building activities undertaken by RDAs across NSW funded by the NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet.

Registrations close July 13. Search for RDA Riverina at www.eventbrite.com.au to register.

- Ends -

MEDIA NOTE: For more information, contact RDA Riverina Executive Officer Rachel Whiting on 0429 444 213.

The Horticulture Skills survey is available until August 4:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/horticultureskillsriverina>