

Register today for a Property Identification Code (PIC)

Mornington Peninsula grape growers can now get the jump on pest and disease threats in their region with faster access to biosecurity information.

Agriculture Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association (MPVA) are working together to improve biosecurity management practices on the peninsula by encouraging growers to embrace the Property Identification Codes (PIC) program.

MPVA Technical Chairman Tyson Lewis said by registering for a PIC, Agriculture Victoria is able to quickly alert local growers about a plant pest infestation or disease outbreak that may hit hard on the hip pockets of their business.

“It is a grower’s responsibility to maintain or improve biosecurity practices on their property, to ensure their business is not left exposed to the damaging effects of a plant pest or disease outbreak.

Registering for a PIC takes no more than a few minutes, and then growers will have an effective way to respond to a potential grape phylloxera or any other infestation in the region” Tyson said.

“PICs are the best option for receiving fast and accurate biosecurity information; however, less than 45 per cent of Mornington Peninsula grape growers have registered for one.”

To help protect your business from pests and diseases, MPVA is urging all vineyard owners to register online with Agriculture Victoria for a plant PIC.

“Grapevine growers also need to remember that the application for a PIC is a legal obligation for your industry so I urge all vineyard owners who grow 0.5 hectares or more of grapes to do their bit and register with Agriculture Victoria.”

To apply for a PIC go to www.mpva.com.au or

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/horticulture/property-identification-codes>