

## *Upgrading Mornington Peninsula region to a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ)*

### **What is happening in the Mornington Peninsula?**

Agriculture Victoria has implemented a vineyard inspection program, in collaboration with local industry partners, to declare the Mornington Peninsula region a Phylloxera Exclusion Zone (PEZ). The phylloxera rezoning project emphasises the importance of biosecurity in wine production. The presence of phylloxera imposes significant costs to affected growers and impacts supply chain efficiencies. Long-term impacts result in the loss of productivity and ultimate replacement of vines.

### **How long will the inspection project last?**

The phylloxera inspection program will be conducted over three years during each summer/autumn period. Inspections commenced on Monday 8 January 2018, and will cease in March/April 2020.

### **Who is conducting the inspection project?**

Under the guidance of Agriculture Victoria, phylloxera rezoning property inspections are being conducted by an experienced team of contractors who have a long history of undertaking similar phylloxera rezoning work in other parts of Victoria. Working to best practice biosecurity standards, the survey field staff are highly trained in on-farm phylloxera detection and hygiene practices.

### **How will I recognise an inspection contractor?**

Contract staff can be recognised by a government-issued identification card.

### **Will Agriculture Victoria be present during the inspections?**

Ongoing cooperation from growers will ensure that property inspections are conducted as quickly as possible to reduce the impact on harvest operations. Agriculture Victoria staff will be on hand, visiting growers and supervising operations for the duration of the project.

### **Why do we need an inspection program?**

To enable the rezoning of the Mornington Peninsula region as a PEZ, a program of annual property inspections over three years must be conducted. Under the program contractors need to visit every property.

### **Where will the inspections take place?**

The inspections will initially concentrate on the northern part of the Mornington Peninsula region to align to the movements of the harvest season.

### **Who is funding the project?**

\$1 million has been provided via the Victorian State Government's Agriculture Infrastructure and Jobs Fund (AIJF) to fund the Tackling Phylloxera program - a state wide project that aims to address the biosecurity challenges posed by phylloxera.

The Mornington Peninsula vineyard inspection project is being funded as part of the Tackling Phylloxera program.

In addition to the AIJF funding, the Mornington Peninsula Vignerons Association has committed approximately \$70,000 as an in-kind contribution to support the three-year phylloxera vine inspection program in the region.

### **What are the anticipated key outcomes of the vineyard inspection project?**

- Increased awareness of phylloxera as a major biosecurity threat in the region.
- Strengthened commitment to maintain awareness of local biosecurity standards to sustain the PEZ into the future.
- Improved phylloxera management to keep phylloxera out of the region.
- Enhanced uptake of on-farm best practice phylloxera management measures.
- Recognition of the Mornington Peninsula region as a PEZ by industry and trading partners.
- Improved employment opportunities and support for tourism and associated industries.

### **Who can I contact for more information?**

For more information, visit

[www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/tacklingphylloxera](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/tacklingphylloxera)

Or watch the videos at:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqQXWQUTfUY&feature=youtu.be&list=PLFDdaBaOVmBCMwVd5ZWjfg\\_RJGnQI7FXH](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WqQXWQUTfUY&feature=youtu.be&list=PLFDdaBaOVmBCMwVd5ZWjfg_RJGnQI7FXH)

Or email: [paul.dennis@ecodev.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.dennis@ecodev.vic.gov.au)