

# NEWS RELEASE



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## Manjimup to host major agriculture-themed conference

The South West region's premier think tank series will bring its crystal ball to Manjimup in May, giving local people the opportunity to hear Australian and overseas agricultural experts discuss the future of the industry.

The one-day Critical Horizons event, organised by the South West Development Commission, will look at emerging global trends in agriculture and how they are likely to affect regional communities.

Guest speakers will include Agriculture and Food Minister Terry Redman, London-based food marketing professor David Hughes, Slow Food Southern Forests leader Sophie Zalokar and former Deputy Premier Hendy Cowan.

SWDC chief executive officer Don Punch said the speakers will examine a range of topics and trends including consumer demand, sustainable practice, the global food crisis and GM technology.

"It is hoped people will take information from the seminar and keep it in mind when making future decisions about their work and business," he said.

"By being equipped for challenges and prepared to take advantage of opportunities we can help create our own bright futures."

Mr Punch said by encouraging people to 'look over the horizon' and consider how world trends may influence regional areas, the Critical Horizons series helps prepare people for the years ahead.

"Since 2007, Critical Horizons has been successful in getting people thinking about a range of topics, including the future of water, renewable energy and carbon trading," he said.

"But events have always been held in Bunbury and given the topic and Manjimup's status as one of the State's major food bowls, we thought it would be a good fit to hold this agriculture-themed seminar in Manjimup.

"It will be the first time a Critical Horizons event had been held outside Bunbury since the future-thinking series began in 2007."

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Department of Agriculture and Food



Slow Food Southern Forests



Government of Western Australia  
Department of Commerce



An Australian Government Initiative  
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The seminar will include morning and afternoon teas, lunch and a special Taste of the Southern Forests dinner showcasing local produce.

For more information about Critical Horizons or to register for the event, please visit [www.criticalhorizons.com.au](http://www.criticalhorizons.com.au) or contact Alan Cross at the South West Development Commission by phoning 9792 2000 or emailing [alan.cross@swdc.wa.gov.au](mailto:alan.cross@swdc.wa.gov.au) .

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