



Recruitment options for agricultural workers in WA

19 January 2021

This factsheet outlines the potential pathways to recruit agricultural workers from Western Australia, nationally and internationally for the upcoming seeding period. The information is current as at 19 January 2021. Further detailed information on COVID-19 quarantine requirements is available on the wa.gov.au website.

Please note that as of the 19 January 2021, all arrivals into WA who have spent any time internationally in the 14 days prior to entering WA, are required to undertake 14 days mandatory Hotel Quarantine upon entry into WA.

*Note Option 1 below is not currently available, though may be considered if there is a demonstrated industry need.

*Option 1: Industry chartered New Zealand - WA direct flight

Where there is a demonstrated need, the **WA Government may support industry to facilitate** a chartered flight from New Zealand.

This would require alignment and cooperation with a New Zealand based recruitment organisation, WA grower agreement on departure dates, approval from the WA Chief Health Officer, availability of Hotel Quarantine and coordination of G2G PASS approvals for arrival in WA. Hotel Quarantine costs are \$2,500 per person and charter costs are estimated to be \$1,500 per person one way. In order to be cost effective, a charter flight would need to be filled with approximately 150-230 workers, depending on aircraft.

Travellers entering WA from New Zealand directly are considered international travellers and are subject to the WA Government's mandatory Hotel Quarantine period of 14 days.

Option 2: Commercial flight – from New Zealand to New Zealand Safe Zone (Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane)

A one-way quarantine free [Safe Travel Zone](#) exists between New Zealand and New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Territory, Queensland and ACT. Regular commercial flights between Auckland, Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane are continuing at a cost of approximately \$600 one way.

WA growers could **independently** undertake recruitment in New Zealand on a case-by-case basis and have workers travel to Australia via a commercial flight. The worker's onward journey to WA could be undertaken in a number of ways, and depends on the level of risk in the State they are travelling from. Up-to-date information on interstate border control is available on the [WA government website](#). Workers must complete a G2G PASS application and receive approval prior to arrival. Options for entry into WA include:

Option 2(a): New Zealand workers arrive in Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane and immediately travel to WA, entering mandatory Hotel Quarantine for 14 days.

Option 2(b): New Zealand workers arrive in Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane and spend 14 days quarantine free. After 14 days, travel to WA and undertake 14 days self-quarantine at a suitable premises and present for a COVID test on day 11. NOTE this assumes that, New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland are considered Low Risk States and, during the 14 days spent in a Low Risk State, there are no COVID-19 outbreaks.

Option 2(c): New Zealand workers arrive in Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane and immediately travel to a Very Low Risk State or Territory, which is participating in the New Zealand Safe Travel Zone, and spend 14 days quarantine free. Then travel to WA quarantine free. NOTE this assumes that, during the 14 days spent in a Very Low Risk state, there are no COVID-19 outbreaks.

Option 3: Use of existing Western Australian workforce support services

Web-based services such as [Studium](#) and [Harvest Trail](#) have been established to facilitate targeted job listings on a region-by-region basis. These services are currently free of charge to primary industries employers and are designed to match employee skills to job requirements.

Please note, the Harvest Trail service is funded by the federal government. Due to current funding arrangements, this service is only available to primary industries employers within the South West and the north-eastern corridor around Perth and up to Gingin.

Growers can independently approach recruitment agencies or business networks, or advertise using recruitment websites.

The [Work and Wander out Yonder](#) campaign commenced in August 2020 to encourage WA locals to consider seasonal regional work. The campaign has drawn strong interest from local jobseekers with over 50,000 visitors to the site, and has assisted in channelling students, school leavers and other Western Australians into primary industries work. Referencing 'Work and Wander' or #WorkAndWander in your recruitment advertisements may assist in directing more people who are interested in regional work to your advertisement. More information is available on the wa.gov.au website.

The WA Government has also committed \$3 million to the '[Regional Travel and Accommodation Scheme](#)'. This has been established to provide financial support for WA job seekers who relocate more than 100km to undertake eligible primary industries work. DPIRD is responsible for administering the scheme.

Accommodation rebates of up to \$40 per night, to a maximum of \$3,360 (12 weeks), and up to \$500 in travel support is being provided to primary industries workers who move more than 100kms to work in the regions.

In order to qualify for the rebate, employers must confirm the employees' have worked full time, for a minimum of two weeks.

Option 4: Interstate recruitment

Refer to [WA Interstate Border Controls](#) for up to date information on risk status and entry requirements from each State. In all cases, a G2G pass is required.

Option 5: International recruitment other than New Zealand

International recruitment requires exemption to travel from the [Commonwealth](#), as well as a G2G pass. From 22 January 2021, if you are travelling to or transiting through Australia you must provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 (PCR) test to your airline, taken 72 hours or less before your scheduled departure. Detailed information is available on the [Commonwealth](#) government website. Entrants may also require a valid visa, submission for an exemption to Australia's travel restrictions and authority to enter Australian States and Territories.

Contact

- Primary Industries Workforce Capability, workforce@dpird.wa.gov.au

Online information

- [WA Good to Go Pass](#)
- [DPIRD - securing labour supply](#)
- [WA Interstate Border Controls](#)
- [Work and Wander out Yonder](#)
- [Regional Travel and Accommodation Scheme](#)
- [WA Government - travelling to WA](#)
- [Studium](#) recruitment website
- [Harvest Trail](#)
- [Commonwealth government entry to Australia requirements](#)
- [Commonwealth New Zealand Safe Travel Zone information](#)

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