

# Current nursery industry issues in Australia<sup>©</sup>

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## THE BIG PICTURE

- The Australian economy is being driven by mining boom time carry over, population /immigration growth and government spending (mostly not sustainable).
- Retail plant volume growth is through Bunnings and Masters chain stores and underpinned by strong housing development.
- Smaller retailers surviving by e-commerce and diversification of products and services.
- Endemic plant demand strong due to swing back to natives and environmental impacts and offsets.

## AUSTRALIAN NURSERY ISSUES

- Contract growing terms being documented by nurseries working in conjunction with each other.
- A contraction in the number of production nurseries as owners retire or businesses close or fail.
- Some remaining nurseries expanding to pick up closure volumes.
- Nursery *Phytophthora* control is a growing issue with potential threats from new dieback species and demands for testing by clients.
- Restrictions on propagation of threatened flora remaining an issue with attempts to lift ongoing.
- Increased diversification: landscapers and revegetation contractors becoming growers and visa versa.
- Rental of plants and plant displays showing growth potential.

## AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Climate variability influencing policy and practice.
- Miners under pressure to restore damaged areas. Retrospective funds established.
- New top level protocols being established for native seed, nursery hygiene and environmental restoration, driven by industry groups, Revegetation Industry Association of Western Australia Inc (RIAWA) and Society for Ecological Restoration Australasia Inc (SERA).
- Fire-fuel load management pervading all development assessments and decisions.
- Serious concerns over *Phytophthora* spp. and spread of myrtle rust.

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