

| SunRISE 21 Incorporated - Achievements and History - 1994 to 2003 | |
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| 1994 | Sunraysia Regional Sustainable Development Program facilitated by MDBC and Ag Vic as part of the MDBC Irrigation Management Strategy (IMS) |
| 1994 | Seed funding of \$100,000 from MDBC and support from the Victorian Department of Agriculture, Energy and Minerals for establishment of the Regional Initiative. |
| May 1994 | Mr Lloyd Thomson appointed Chairman |
| May 1994 | \$2.55 million announced by Prime Minister Paul Keating as part of 'Working Nation', for a pilot scheme in Sunraysia (one of 2 case studies - Sunraysia and Shepparton) under the MDBC IMS. Sunraysia received \$0.85m per year over 3years |
| 1994 – 1996 | Psyche Bend Diversion Scheme commenced, representing the first step in working towards a sustainable regional base in concert with the Sunraysia Salinity Management Group. The project was set up to reduce salt disposal into the Murray River, and as a result, generated 2.1 EC credits. |
| 1995 | Name changed to SunRISE 21 – Sunraysia Regional Initiative for a Sustainable Economy through the 21 st Century. |
| Feb 1995 | Mr Henry Tankard appointed Chairman |
| 1994 – 1995 | Regional Restructuring Consultancy – review of restructuring throughout Australia for application in Sunraysia. The report considered how public and private sectors might encourage and support sustainable redevelopment of irrigated horticulture in Sunraysia, and was used in developing the strategies for 'Kickstart Sunraysia'. |
| 1995 – 1997 | Regional Farm Assessment Models / Farm Economic Assessment Model – development of a computer-based planning tool for horticulturists considering redevelopment of farm enterprises. |
| 1995 -1997 | Merbein Integrated Development Scheme – planning for this project commenced in 1995/96, and the report completed in March 1997. In response to a range of issues around the disposal of trade waste, sewerage, irrigation drainage and storm water in the Merbein area, SunRISE 21 commissioned a study to identify options to reduce the discharge of nutrient-rich and saline waters into the Murray River. |
| 1995-1998 | Robinvale Irrigation and Drainage Scheme – planning for this project commenced in 1995. A study was initiated by SunRISE 21 in 1997 into the ways of sustainably extending irrigated horticulture at Robinvale, addressing drainage issues for existing and new irrigation development. The study was completed in June 1998, and identified 7000 ha of vacant land being suitable for new irrigation development. (The assessment included existing irrigated areas, and remnant vegetation to be retained.) |
| 1995-1997 | Development of the Kickstart proposal to address problems facing the horticultural industries in the region. A core group of SunRISE 21 Board members and co-opted people worked for two years to develop the program. They debated, drafted and negotiated the Kickstart Strategy and then applied to the federal and state governments to source funding for the project. Funds and support were negotiated on both sides of the Murray River through the Rural Partnership program, a joint initiative of the Commonwealth, and New South Wales and Victorian State Governments. |
| 1996-1998 | Land Capability and Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment in collaboration with Victorian and NSW Rural Water Authorities. |
| 1996-1998 | Regional Land Use Strategy in cooperation with Mildura Rural City Council and Wentworth Shire Council |
| 1995 | Establishment of a regional land information system using Geographic Information System technology to be titled SunLIS |
| 1995-1999 | Sunraysia Land Information System (SunLIS) became a vital aspect of SunRISE 21, with |

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| | contributing members from a range of industries, water authorities, state and local government agencies, and irrigators. Development of the regional crop database. |
| 1996-1997 | Communication – Promoting Sustainable Development (SunRISE 21 communication strategy) |
| 1997 | Participation in the Evaluation of the IMS Regional Development Initiative – Sunraysia and Shepparton Pilot Schemes. Evaluation of Process, Outcomes and Opportunities. |
| 1997 | Quality Manager projects promoting quality management in regional industries, and Quality Assurance Case Studies on regional enterprises, aimed to accelerate the application of quality assurance programs across all aspects of production, processing and transportation in the Sunraysia region. |
| 1997-1998 | Regional Education Strategy for Sustainable Development – support for the development and delivery of skills training to the horticultural community. |
| 1997 | Asparagus Industry Development Strategy - SunRISE 21 helped to revise the Industry Development Strategy. |
| May 1997 | Launch of 'Kickstart Sunraysia Rural Partnership Program' with announcement of \$10.08 million committed to the project through the Rural Partnership Program, the Rural Adjustment Scheme, and Farm\$mart. The Agreement for release of funds was signed by participating governments on 5 th March 1998. |
| 1997 – 2001 | Successful management and implementation of 'Kickstart Sunraysia' by SunRISE 21, which provided a stimulus to enable irrigators to initiate property redevelopment programs as a means of increasing the profitability and sustainability of the region. Redevelopment grants to irrigators, development of grower Business Plans, training, re-establishment grants, and program administration amounted to \$10.48 million. (Additional funds were gained from the NSW Rural Assistance Authority and the Victorian Rural Finance Corporation to enable the Business Plan subsidy and training programs to commence during the delay in release of the program funds). |
| 2000 | Kickstart Evaluation was prepared to assess the impact of the program on the region. It found that 'Kickstart Sunraysia' leveraged additional income to the region beyond the \$10.48m as a result of redeveloping at a faster rate (estimated at a potential \$400million over a 10 year period). |
| Nov 1997 | Mr Pat Lanigan appointed Chairman |
| Nov 1998 | Production of the first Crop Report – 'Sunraysia Land Information System 1997 Crop Report' by SunLIS <i>Orthophoto contributors were:</i> Lower Murray Water, Wentworth Shire Council, Sunraysia Rural Water Authority, Western Murray Irrigation, Murray Darling Water Management Action Plan, Nyah to Sth Australian Border Salinity Plan. <i>Crop database contributors were:</i> Sunraysia irrigators, Sunraysia Horticultural centre, Murray Darling Water Management Action Plan, Lower Murray Irrigation Areas-Land & Water Management Plan, CSIRO, Dept Land & Water Conservation, First Mildura Irrigation Trust, Sunraysia Rural Water Authority, Murray Darling Basin Commission. |
| 1997-1999 | Artists in Industry Project – an initiative of SunRISE 21, MRCC Arts and Heritage Unit and Wentworth Shire Council. 5 peak industry agencies were involved as hosts: Riverlink, Community land, water and salinity management groups, FMIT, Horticulturalists, and CRC for Freshwater Research – Lower Basin Laboratory. |
| Nov 1999 | Mr Ross Lake appointed Chairman |
| Nov 1999 | Production of 'Horticulture of the Lower Murray Darling Irrigated Crop Report' (Orthophoto and crop database contributors were similar to those listed above in 1997 Report.) |
| 1999-2000 | Support for research student Damian Wells for his research thesis: 'The Impact of Agricultural Restructuring Programs: A Case Study of Kickstart Sunraysia' – as part of his studies towards an Honours Degree of Bachelor of Environmental Management. |
| 1999-2000 | Participation on a national review of Rural Partnership Program conducted by Price Waterhouse Coopers. |
| Feb 2000 | Aerial photography of the region arranged by SunRISE 21. Production of February 2000 orthophoto image base commenced. |
| 2000 | SunLIS name changed to SunRISE Mapping and Information Services – a reassessment of the future direction and core business through development of a Business Plan to manage mapping as a |

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| | self-supporting enterprise with no on-going Government funding. |
| 1997 – 2003 | Provision of over 2700 detailed property maps to irrigators. |
| 2000 | Regional Drainage Assessment Task Force – SunRISE 21 provided support to Mildura Rural City Council for this project |
| 2000 | Publication of 'Horticultural Advice and Training Directory' |
| 2000 | Sunraysia Community Leadership Program – submission developed and support provided by SunRISE 21 |
| 2000 | Review of Horticultural Skills Centre |
| 2000 | National Rural Partnership Program Forum hosted by SunRISE 21 |
| 2000-2002 | Sunraysia Drainage Strategy – mapping and support services provided by SunRISE 21 for this project |
| 2000 – 2003 (on-going) | Establishment in 2000 of a Citrus Information System for the Murray Valley Citrus Marketing Board. The system comprises orthophoto imagery and planting details for registered citrus properties, and provides a platform for integrated collection, storage and analysis of industry information to improve planting statistics, forecasting and planning. |
| 1997 – 2003 | SunRISE 21 has initiated or participated in various Industry Outlook Forums, workshops, and presentations to industry groups to address information needs and provide opportunities for information on industry issues. |
| 2001 – 2003 (on-going) | Supply of Property Crop Plans to wine grape growers under arrangements with wineries for their quality assurance programs. |
| 2001 – 2003 | Supply of Property Crop Plans to participants in the Dried Fruits Approved supplier program. |
| 2002 – 2003 | Scoping study commissioned by the Australian Citrus Growers in 2001 to explore adoption of the Murray Valley Citrus Information System at the National level. Led to development of a National Citrus Plantings Database in 2003. |
| 2002 | Study on the Impact of Irrigation Incentive Schemes to analyse changes in irrigation practices for the period 1997 – 2001. |
| 2001 - 2003 | Water use efficiency project for Murray Darling Basin Commission. |
| Feb 2003 | Aerial photography of the region undertaken. Production of 2003 orthophotos commenced. |

Reference: SunRISE 21 Annual Reports 1994-1995, 1995-1996, 1996-1997, 1997-1998, 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, and other documents provided by SunRISE 21.