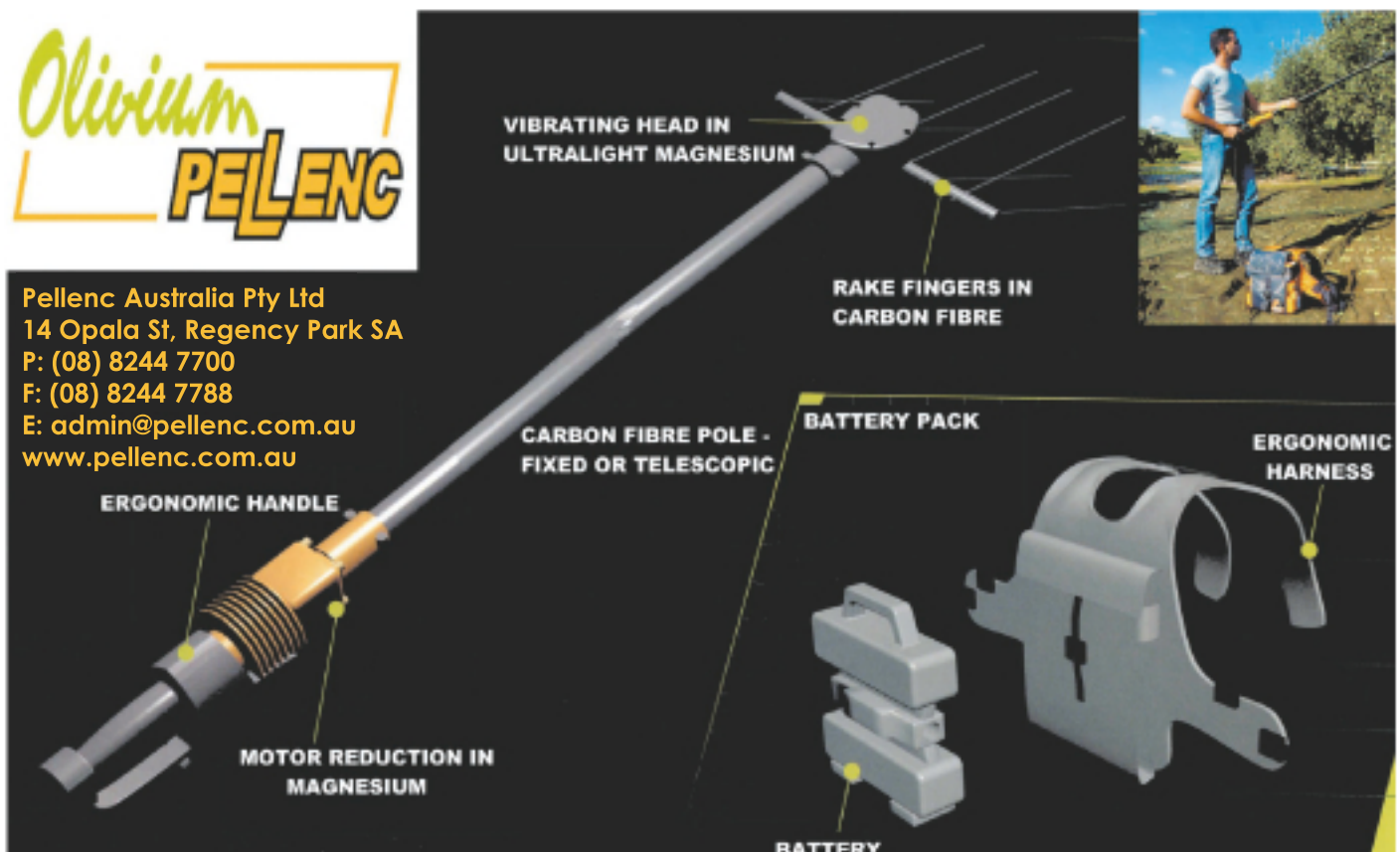


**Olivium**  
**PELLENC**

Pellenc Australia Pty Ltd  
14 Opala St, Regency Park SA  
P: (08) 8244 7700  
F: (08) 8244 7788  
E: admin@pellenc.com.au  
www.pellenc.com.au



## Olivium dramatically reduces harvesting costs

**P**ELLENC'S OLIVIUM olive harvesting rake is taking the olive harvesting world by storm. With over 3,000 tools already sold worldwide, the Olivium is now available for sale in Australia.

Created by Pellenc's dedicated research team and developed through intensive testing over a number of years, the Olivium offers growers an efficient, lightweight and practical solution for manual harvesting.

The tools have been trialled and proven in Australian conditions over the past two years, with outstanding results.

Russell March (B.Agr. Sc.), Agronomist with DiManno Growers Supplies in McLaren Vale, South Australia, was one of the first to try the tool and worked with Pellenc's engineers during an extensive testing programme carried out in his region. Russell was happy to share his findings on the tool.

"Two years ago, the first Olivium in Australia was handed to me for testing. Knowing the price, I dubiously took the Olivium home and proceeded to harvest my SA Verdale olives. Previously, hand harvesting with two people took 20 – 35 minutes per tree.

These are mature trees producing 80 – 100 kg each. With the Olivium, operating on my own, I was averaging 14 minutes per tree, including moving the nets.

"I must admit I had some problems getting used to the machine, having to take the back

pack on and off between trees, learning the most efficient placement of the tool in the canopy to achieve the best results and so on. I also had some issues with rods breaking on the machine.

But I was astounded at the efficiency of the tool to remove fruit from branches, regardless of limb size.

"The harvest rate was 4 times faster per individual worker as compared with hand harvesting.

Having also used pneumatic harvesters and hook shakers on the trees, I estimated that the harvesting speed with the Olivium was approximately double.

However, the cost of the tool was twice that of the others.

This is not a concern with larger operators, as the labour cost far outweighs equipment costs.

"Using olive harvesting contractors, we assessed the ability of the tool using gangs of people and combinations with other machinery.

We found that using the Olivium, we could halve the number of staff per tool. Effectively, we were running gangs of three instead of six per tool, but still achieving the same rate of harvest.

We were saving at this stage over \$50 per hour in wages.

At this rate, the Olivium would pay for itself in ten days!

"Later, the next series was offered to me to assess and we put numerous tools into

groves to be trialled.

The contractor found that using two Oliviums and six people, the approximate cost per kilogram harvested was 27 to 29 cents.

The crop load at this stage was low. This season, with heavier crops, we are expecting average costs to be lower than 25 cents per kg.

"Modifications to harvesting rods and mounts on these later models drastically improved the lifespan of the equipment. Any concerns we had were taken on board by Pellenc and rectified.

"From years of experience in olives and olive harvesting, I have never seen an individual tool change harvesting costs as dramatically as this tool has.

Regardless of the higher purchase price, even the most dubious and reluctant grower involved in the trials saw the merits and values of the tool.

Taking growers' opinions and advice on board, Pellenc has made the Olivium the leader and benchmark for hand harvesting olive equipment.

"With Pellenc's reputation for professionalism and technology, this tool will further develop and improve.

Without any question, the Olivium olive harvester is the best development for the olive industry in recent times."

**Contact Pellenc Australia for your nearest Olivium sales and service centre.**