

The Importance of Reporting Hail & Storm Damage

Riverina growers are encouraged to report hail and storm damage, several severe hail and storm events have hit the Riverina during the growing season, causing extensive damage to both crops and vineyard infrastructure. For growers that have been impacted the results can be financially and emotionally devastating, growers have reported not wanting to enter their vineyard because of the damage they have sustained. No one wants to find themselves in this situation, but if you do where do you turn and is there financial relief to help you get back on your feet. The short answer is Yes, Relief is available usually in the form of a loan, however the NSW Government has initiated Resilience NSW to cater for natural disasters. The NSW DPI are the government agency that runs the program, and it all starts with filling out a Natural Disaster assessment. The natural disaster assessment can be found by going to the NSW DPI website, On the home page click on Emergencies in the tool bar at the top of the screen. This will take you to the emergencies page where you need to click on Current Situation, under the Floods & Storms Heading in the top left of the page. The Current situation page will let you download the Natural Disaster Assistance Guide, or you can scroll further down the page until you get to the recovery section where there is a link to take you to the natural disaster damage survey. This link is a little confusing as it suggests that it is for reporting flood damage, however it is for reporting damage from any type of natural disaster, this takes you to the Primary industries natural disaster damage survey page where the link to complete the survey is housed. Alternately you can type in the following link to your web browser for the same result <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/emergency/community/primary-industries-natural-disaster-damage-survey>

The survey takes about 15 minutes to complete, and when the finished survey is submitted it goes to the Resilience NSW data base where it is added to other reports from the same natural disaster event. This then builds up a picture of the impact of the natural disaster in both the number of people affected and as well as an estimate in dollars of the damage incurred. If you have



been affected by a storm or hail it is Important to complete this survey, as the final document is how the politicians assess what category the natural disaster will fall into. There are 4 categories, starting with Cat A then progressing through Cat B, Cat C, and Cat D. These categories trigger different types of aid available, with Cat B loans are available, Cat C means that grants come into play while Cat D means larger Grants and other assistance is available.

Most growers are unaware how the system works and fail to fill in the survey as they don't want another loan, by completing the survey you are not obligating yourself to take a loan, you are adding to the final picture that will determine the category the natural disaster will fall under. Please encourage your neighbors to also submit a survey if they have been impacted, as every survey helps, and any crop or infrastructure damage is relevant.

Riverina Winegrape Growers is more than happy to assist growers submit a survey, we can come to you on site or please feel free to call into our office in Yambil street.

WHAT'S INSIDE THIS EDITION	Page
The Importance of Reporting Hail & Storm Damage	1
Board Activities Report	2
Riverina Regional Program Update	2
Keeping Roads Safe During the Harvest Season	3
Riverina Hail Storm Relief Announced	4-5
Yambil Street Upgrade Nearing Completion	6
124 Million to Deliver Water Savings to the Riverina	7
Upcoming events and Training	8
Cartoon	8

BOARD ACTIVITIES REPORT



**Riverina
WINEGRAPE
GROWERS**

Board Office Bearers

Bruno Brombal will continue his role as chairman of RWG after being elected unopposed, Bob Bellato was also elected unopposed as Deputy Chairman.

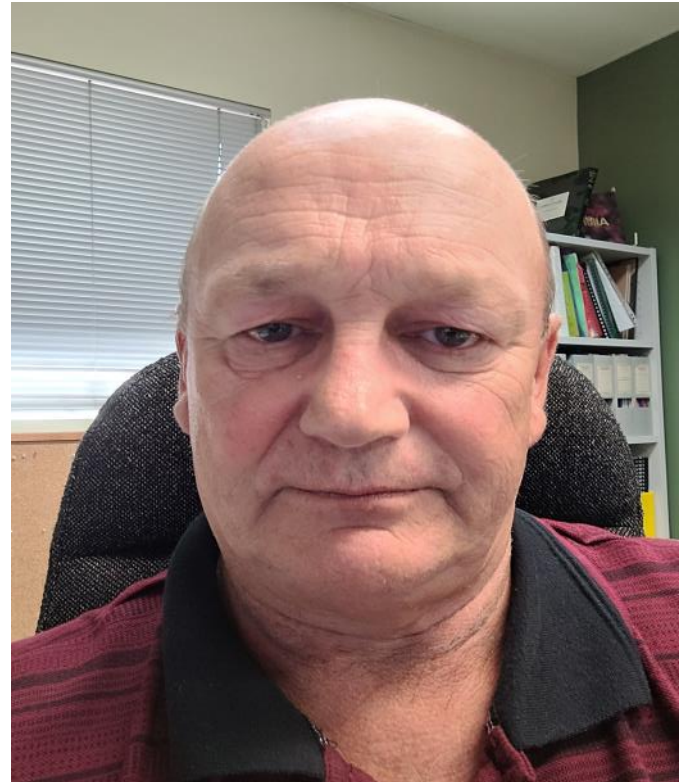
Board Member Delegates to other Organizations

Frank Alampi has taken over from Bruno Altin as the delegate to NSW Wine Industry Association, with Bruno Altin acting as a proxy when needed. Tony Baggio will continue in his role a delegate to both the National and NSW Irrigators Councils. Bruno Brombal will continue in his role a delegate to the Inland Wine Region alliance, Tony Baggio to fill in as proxy if needed. Locally Bob Bellato will continue in his roles at both IREC and HACCP, Steve Barbon will also continue in his roles with MIA Vine Improvement and HACCP. The Young Growers Group sub committee will be comprised of Bruno Brombal, Bruno Altin, Dom Schirripa and Steve Barbon.

New CEO

Riverina Winegrape Growers would like to announce the appointment Of Jeremy Cass as the new CEO. Jeremy has almost 30years experience in the wine industry ,

staring his career as a vineyard hand with Rothbury Estate at their Cowra Vineyard. Jeremy moved to Yenda in 1995 to take up the position of manager with the MIA Vine Improvement Society, in 2004 Jeremy took on the position of Viticulturist with DeBortoli Wines based in Bilbul where he has worked until his move to Riverina Winegrape growers.



Riverina Regional Program Update

As we head towards the end of vintage, plans are underway for workshops in the region and further trials. The season has been one that led to many a disease and pest problem. The recent issues with grapevine scale this season will result in a workshop to be held on the 28th April 2022. Controlling mealy bug will also be covered. The workshop will be funded by Wine Australia and held in partnership with NSW DPI and AWRI. The venue will be confirmed shortly and will be dependent on the number of attendees. Registrations for attendance can be made via the winegrapes marketing board.

The current Wine Australia funded regional program will be extended for another 12 months. Planning is underway for the final year of the project. AgTech continues to be trialled at the research station focusing on soil moisture, plant sensors, satellite technology. There will be a suite of workshops focusing on irrigation scheduling and a field day focusing on AgTech at the

research station. These workshops will be like those that are about to be rolled out for citrus growers in the region but with a Winegrape focus. Numbers will be capped but if there is significant demand there may be requirement to repeat the workshop suite.

During May, the team from the Elizabeth Macarthur Institute (EMAI) will be visiting to help with a regional survey of vineyards for trunk disease. Previous testing under the regional program has identified several diseases in the region. The survey will require sampling from vines that are showing signs of decline. All costs for testing will be covered under the regional program. If you are interested in participating in the survey either let Brian Bortolin or Katie Dunne know. Testing is continuing for viruses as well where applicable.

Planning is underway for trials on the research station and other sites focusing on irrigation scheduling, cover crops, scale management and disease management.

Keeping Road Safe During This Harvest Season

With the 2022 grape and wine vintage now underway, a reminder has been issued to all road users to help keep local roads safe to ensure this year's crop gets from the farm to receival points as intended rather than being spilled across the region's roads.

Griffith City Council's Road Safety and Traffic Officer Greg Balind said complying with relevant legislation and allowing heavy vehicles plenty of room while sharing the road not only ensures safety on the roads but minimizes the potential for fruit and juice spills across the road network.

"Grape farmers have recently taken a big hit due to unfavorable weather so the last thing we all want to see is part of a salvaged crop wasted due to a spillage." Mr Balind said.

"In the past several seasons a number of grape spills upon our roads has resulted in other drivers losing control of their vehicles or being unable to safely stop at intersections.

"To ensure safety and cost minimization, operators and cartage contractors must comply with relevant legislation and ensure that overloading does not occur and loads are carried correctly within the confines of the relevant vehicle's load restrictions," he added. Enforcement will be undertaken across the region throughout the harvest to ensure vehicles comply with restrictions and that loads are secured according to the Chain of Responsibility laws.

When a grape spill occurs and vehicles are identified,

heavy fines can be applied under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act and any additional costs associated with clean-ups will also be passed on to operators.

Mr Balind further advised that there is also a responsibility on other road users to give heavy vehicles the space needed on the road to make their respective journeys as safe as possible.

"Consultation with heavy vehicle representatives confirmed that there have been many occasions when heavy vehicle drivers have been 'cut off' or forced to take evasive action to avoid a crash due to drivers of smaller vehicles stopping suddenly or pulling out in front of a truck. Due to their size and weight, heavy vehicles obviously need more distance to stop and more room to turn so I urge all drivers to show courtesy and understand that the maneuverability of heavy vehicles is more extreme than that of a normal vehicle." Mr Balind said.

Griffith City Council is also asking the community to help by reporting any grape spills so as action can be taken to clear the road and remove the danger to other road users as soon as possible

Residents can report a grape spill by calling Council on 1300 176 077 during business hours or 6969 4823 after hours (J&J Security.)

Further information on grape spills, including reporting procedures, is available on Council's website at

www.griffith.nsw.gov.au



Riverina Hail Storm Relief Announced

Dugald Saunders NSW Minister for Agriculture and Western NSW made a quick trip to Griffith on the 21/3/2022, to view Hail affected vineyards and orchards before announcing that the natural disaster rating of Category B had been upgraded to Category D. This means that eligible growers can now apply for grants of up to \$50,000.00. RWG Chairman Bruno Brombal , CEO Jeremy Cass, Riverina Citrus Chairman Vito Mancini, and Mayor Doug Curran met with Minister Saunders taking him to view some hail affected vineyards and citrus orchards.

The announcement of the natural disaster category change was then made. This announcement was the result of much hard work and lobbying of government departments both state and federal by both Riverina Citrus and the Riverina Winegrape Growers.

Bruno & Vito both thanked the minister for the welcome announcement , and taking the time to come to Griffith



Minister Saunders Announcing Cat D



Hail Affected vineyard that didn't make it to the winery

Riverina Hail Storm Relief Announced Continued

To see the destruction for himself, Vito told of how when the storms were reported to him several farmers were so distraught that they did not want to go into their farms. Bruno said that he too was worried about growers, and stated that vintage has been keeping

them busy, we are worried about the affect on their mental health once vintage is over and they start to work out the end result. Hail Affected growers are welcome to contact Riverina Winegrape growers to help them with the process of obtaining help.



Bruno Brombal & Vito Mancini thanking Minister Saunders for his Visit

Yambil Street Upgrade Nearing Completion

After months of dodging temporary fencing and having to navigate road blocks in order to get to the Riverina Grape Growers Office in Yambil street the work is now all but complete. There are several small jobs to complete along the street to finish this mammoth undertaking, but the front of the office is now unincumbered by these restraints and boasts some

newly concreated and paved footpaths and a tree. The Board and Staff of Riverina Winegrape Growers would like remind growers that we are here to help with grower issues, and we welcome you to come in and see us even if it is just for a catch up or a chat or give us a call and we can come to you. The number for Riverina Winegrape Growers is 02 6962 3944



REMEMBER REPORT GRAPE SPILLS

Griffith

Phone 1300 176077 Business Hours
Or 0269 694823 After Hours (J&J Security)

Leeton

Phone 0269 530911 Anytime



\$124 million to deliver water savings in the Murrumbidgee



Murrumbidgee Irrigation, supported by Water Infrastructure NSW, has been awarded \$124 million from the Australian Government to modernise its irrigation infrastructure and deliver water savings.

The project aims to modernise Murrumbidgee Irrigation's (MI's) infrastructure by upgrading 1,500 metered outlets, automating 360 regulators, refurbishing 20 kilometres of open earth channels and constructing a new 5,000 ML surge reservoir. This will generate 6.3 GL per year of water savings for the environment and 1.1 GL for water users and their community.

Water Infrastructure NSW supported MI to develop the proposal and seek community comment. Our expert panel then reviewed the application against socio-economic criteria developed by the Murray-Darling Basin Ministerial Council to ensure the project will deliver positive outcomes as part of the Australian Government's \$1.54 billion Off-farm Efficiency Program.

The NSW Government will continue working with local communities, industry and the Australian Government to identify further opportunities under the program.

For more information visit [the Off-farm efficiency program webpage](#).

WINE GRAPES MARKETING BOARD

Upcoming Events and Training



ADELAIDE 26-29 JUNE 2022

**18th AUSTRALIAN
WINE INDUSTRY**

Technical Conference
& Trade Exhibition



REGISTER NOW FOR EARLY BIRD PRICES

Conference contact:

www.awitc.com.au



@The_AWITC #18AWITC

T +61 (0)8 8313 6821

E info@awitc.com.au

Exhibition contact:

www.winetech.com.au

T +61 (0)2 9452 7548

E dawn@fairevents.com.au

SpraySMART Chemical Accreditation Training Dates - Griffith & Leet-

- **Initial** training (\$350.00pp GST exempt) - pre course training and assessment online + 1 day face-to-face
- **Update** training (\$275.00pp GST exempt) - half-day face-to-face training (current accreditation **cannot** be expired for more than 6 months)

Please find upcoming face-to-face dates below

Griffith	Tuesday, 5 April 2022
Griffith	Tuesday, 3 May 2022
Hillston	Wednesday, 16 March 2022
Hillston	Tuesday, 17 May 2022
Leeton	Thursday, 3 March 2022
Leeton	Tuesday, 19 July 2022



Zoom Training

ZOOM TRAINING	Tuesday, 5 April 2022
ZOOM TRAINING	Tuesday, 3 May 2022
ZOOM TRAINING	Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Online Training

- Available for Update Training ONLY
- Update training (\$275.00pp GST exempt)
- You will have 3 months to complete the training

Register for Online Training at www.spraysmart.com.au

Wine Grapes Marketing Board 182 Yambil Street Griffith NSW 2680 Phone: (02) 6962 3944 Fax: (02) 6962 6103
Email: board@wgmb.net.au Web: www.riverinawinegrapes.com.au Office Hours: 8:30am - 5:00pm Mon - Fri

DISCLAIMER The content in this Newsletter "Vine Chat" has been prepared by the Wine Grapes Marketing Board (the Board).

General Advice Warning The information contained is general in nature and does not take into account your personal situation. You should consider whether the information is appropriate to your needs, and where appropriate, seek professional advice from your personal advisors.

Accuracy & Reliability of Information

Although every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this document, the Board, its officers, employees and agents disclaim all liability (except for any liability which by law cannot be excluded), for any error, inaccuracy in, or omission from the information contained on this document or any loss or damage suffered by any person directly or indirectly through relying on this information.

Copyright

The Board owns copyright in the information contained in this document where none currently exists. Information may be duplicated for personal use only. The information may not otherwise be reproduced and must not be distributed or transmitted to any other person or used in any way without the express approval of the Board.