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Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan Newsletter 4 February 2020

A round up of news, funding opportunities, and events for Coorong and Tatiara land managers

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- Local Water quality & level observations

Apply now before funding runs out!!



Funding Available : African Boxthorn, African Lovegrass & Silverleaf Nightshade Control

For further information please visit <http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/pests&weeds> to access the Application form, Project Details and Funding Conditions.

Hard copies available at the three Coorong District Council Offices.

Works must be completed and inspected by 1st April 2020

The Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan has Australian Government funding available for African Boxthorn, African Lovegrass & Silverleaf Nightshade Control on private land in the Coorong District Council area.

Up to 50% of the cost of control is eligible up to a total of \$2000.

21m Support package for drought-affected SA farmers



Hon Steven Marshall MP
Premier

Hon Tim Whetstone MP
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development

Tuesday 10 December 2019

\$21m support package for drought-affected SA farmers

The Premier and Minister Whetstone have announced an expanded Drought Support Program to help South Australia's drought affected primary producers and communities. Attached is the media release.

The \$21 million program is designed to provide some immediate financial relief for those who are doing it tough and assist our farmers get through this drought and others with additional measures aimed at preparedness and long-term resilience.

The South Australian Drought Support Program includes the following initiatives:

- Immediate financial relief by offering a 50 per cent rebate for council rates or pastoral lease rent in 2019-20 and 2020-21 for primary producers receiving the Farm Household Allowance.
- Increased funding to Rural Business Support for a number of support activities which includes

assisting small rural and regional businesses and increasing the Rural Financial Counselling Services to meet growing demand.

- Increasing the Commonwealth Government's On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme, from 25% to 50% (or up to \$50,000) which will provide a greater incentive for eligible primary producers to purchase and install new water infrastructure and improve drought resilience.
- Funding for the Family and Business support (FaB) mentor program, increasing wellbeing and business advice to farmers, families and small businesses in drought-affected regions.

The new and expanded program builds on the support measures already in place and we will continue to work constructively with industry, Federal and local governments to ensure assistance is targeted and effective. The measures announced have also been developed based on advice and feedback from the Dry Conditions Working Group, which includes key industry sector representatives.

All of the relevant assistance information including Guidelines and Application Forms are now available on the **Drought Hub**: pir.sa.gov.au/drought. Applicants can also submit their forms or seek advice from their local PIRSA Regional Office or via the new **Drought Hotline: 1800 93 13 14**. We will be developing some support materials in the coming days and will disseminate when they are available.

Click on links below for more information ;

[South Australian Drought Assistance Guide](#)

[On-farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme](#)

[SA Drought Support Package - Council Rate Rebate 2019 Guidelines](#)



On-Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure Rebate Scheme

Please be aware that the Coorong and Tariara Districts are eligible for this funding.

The On- Farm Emergency Water Infrastructure rebate scheme will receive \$5m, with rebates increased from 25 percent to 50 percent, available by application to those living in regions that form part of the federal government's Drought Communities Program.

All of the relevant assistance information including Guidelines and Application Forms are now available

on the **Drought Hub**: pir.sa.gov.au/drought.

Hotline: 1800 93 13 14

Have you registered!!

Unlocking Agricultural Potential 2020 Forum



When: Friday 21 February 2020

Time: 12:30 to 5:30 pm
Followed by a BBQ dinner

Where: Coomandook Hall
Dukes Highway
Coomandook SA 5261

Cost: Free, including catering.

Come along to this forum and hear from a range of speakers on how to *unlock the agricultural potential of your land.*

For more information or to register contact:

Tracey Strugnell
Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan

Text: 0427 750 050
Email: tstrugnell@coorong.sa.gov.au

For catering purposes RSVP by 14 February

Forum Program

Time	Topic	Speaker
12:30	Acknowledgement of Country, introduction and housekeeping	Roger Wickes Mallee Coorong NRM Chair
12:45	VIRTUAL FENCING Maximising production on your land – update on virtual fencing	Rick Llewellyn CSIRO
13:15	CLIMATE VARIABILITY & MANAGING RISK Climate: long term trends, drivers, variability & outlook Risk based on seasonal probabilities targeting the local area	Peter Hayman SARDI
13:45	Your NRM What can your NRM Officer do for you?	Kylie Moritz District Manager Murraylands Sid Frankling Natural Resources Management Officer - South East
14:15	Afternoon tea	
14:45	SOIL INNOVATION – MAPPING TO BOOST PRODUCTION Use of TSM technology to identify soil production constraints	Daniel Bell (Precision Ag Specialist) and Paul Ruchs (Senior Agronomist) Nutrien Ag Solutions
15:15	Unlocking production potential on sandy soils Matching soil constraint to soil treatment to boost production. Do I rip, spade, clay, lime, tailor nutrient & trace element applications? Once I have carried out my soil amelioration, how do I get my country back into production?	Mel Fraser Senior Soil Consultant PIRSA, Rural Solutions
16:15	CROP PRODUCTION IMPROVEMENT Pulse Check Legume Trial Presentation of results: inoculum type and rates, High P application results, variety trials, radish control. Trial highlights.	Brendan Wallis – Rural Directions SARDI
16:45	DRYLAND SALINITY UPDATE Saltland Pasture Redemption Project Outcomes	Felicity Turner Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan
17:15	Event Conclusion	Roger Wickes Mallee Coorong NRM Group
17:30	BBQ Dinner	



Government of South Australia
South Australian Murray-Darling Basin
Natural Resources Management Board



Agricultural Bureau
of South Australia Inc.
PATHWAY TO IMPROVEMENT



This event is funded by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Board through the NRM levies. Support has also been provided by the Coomandook Ag Bureau and Coorong and Tatiara Local Action Plan.

Australian farmer's mental health matters

When we think about keeping workers safe on farms, we immediately think of machinery or vehicle accidents or incidents with handling animals. Unfortunately, there is another deadly, sometimes unseen, danger for workers lurking on our farms: mental illness. For more information on what to look out for, and for places to go for help and support please click [here](#).

It's ok to not be ok and you are not alone!



Fox Baiting distribution days

To assist landholders manage the detrimental effects of foxes, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin (SAMDB) is offering a group baiting program across the Mallee and Coorong and Ranges to River.

Landholders are encouraged to participate in the fox baiting program to maximise the positive benefits of a coordinated group approach and achieve a significant reduction in foxes.

Fox baits will be provided at a **discounted rate** for collection at the below distribution points;

Thursday 13 February 2020

9:00 am - 11:00 am Karoonda NRM Office *or* Cooke Plains Hall

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Meningie Oval *or* Wanbi Hall

Tuesday 18 February 2020

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Geranium Oval

Thursday 20 February 2020

9:00 am - 11:00 am Nildottie Hall *or* Taillem Bend Football Oval

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Sherlock Hall *or* Wunkar Hall

For more information contact a District Officer at Natural Resources Centre, Murray Bridge on phone 08 8532 9100.

Information about [best practice using 1080 baits for fox control](#), can be found on the PIRSA website.



Scholarship open to country students

Applications for Rural Bank's 2020 Scholarship Program are open until January 28 for students from regional and rural Australia. The 2020 program will support up to 15 first-time undergraduate students looking to pursue tertiary education and contribute to the overall success of Australia's agriculture sector.

"The Rural Bank chief operating officer Will Rayner said the program would enable students to pursue career ambitions, while gaining knowledge and skills that will in turn support regional communities to

pursue further studies by removing some of the hurdles they face in accessing tertiary education and settling into university life, "he said.

Rural Bank scholarships are part of the broader Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Scholarship Program.

For more details : ruralbank.com.au/scholarships

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

Are you experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship?

Talk to a rural financial counsellor. It is a FREE, confidential service. They can give you individual support to meet your needs and help you to make the right decisions for your business. Rural financial counsellors are located within key agricultural communities across Australia.

For more information and to find your local RFCS click [here](#)

DEALING WITH THE DRY



Dry Time regional forum for growers

Growers are invited to attend a pre-sowing dry time regional forum which offers practical information on:

- pre-sowing planning following dry times
- nutrition status of eroded paddocks
- soil nutrition and budgeting
- what to expect from weeds and managing herbicide residues
- crop/variety selection to sow following erosion and / or rebuilding good stubble cover
- soil, fallow and herbicide residue management
- sheep feeding strategies
- cash-flow planning and debt management
- accessing and utilising government services (grants and application support)

Presenters will provide locally relevant content and will include panel sessions to get your questions answered. Each attendee will receive a resource kit to assist farm management decisions in the dry.

Day and Date: Thursday 6 February 2020

Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Brown's Well Football Club

Registration: The workshops are free, but registration is essential for catering purposes and to ensure you receive an information kit. Register online at [Dealing with the Dry](#).

For more information please contact [Tina Brock](#) or phone: 08 8332 327.

Advance Ag - Adopting AgTech n South Australia

February 24, Adelaide

South Australia's first AgTech adoption showcase will discuss the latest thinking in AgTech innovation

and demonstrate its practical application and benefits on-farm through case studies from fellow producers. AgTech developers, and industry leaders. For more information please click [here](#)



GRDC Grains Research Update

February 11 and 12, Adelaide

The GRDC Grains Research Update events are for agronomists, consultants, researchers and growers to see and discuss the latest in research and to network with their peers about how to apply new and relevant information to the latest farming systems. For more information and to register click [here](#)

Yield boosts possible in deep sand

While controlled traffic farming has not been widely adopted in low rainfall areas, results from a five-year study have shown adopting the approach could boost yields by as much 15percent to 20pc in deep sands of the Mallee.

Funded by GRDC, the study has been led by the Australian Controlled Traffic association with research inputs from various organisations, with SARDI's Nigel Wilhelm leading the project.

To read full article that was in the Stock Journal [click here.](#)

Looking after yourself and your family after disaster

Many people around the country may be impacted by bush fires, drought and other tough situations. The stress from these events can take a great toll on individuals, families and communities. The Red Cross has put together a helpful guide with tips on how to recover from a crisis. Click [here to view](#).

For more information on what to do in a crisis or tool kits to help farmers cope with life's changes and get the most out of every day click [here](#)

Soil CRC Participants Conference 2020

March 24 - 26 Adelaide

The annual conference provides an opportunity for members of the Soil CRC and the general public to find out more about current and future projects. There will be lots of time to network and collaborate with researchers, farmers, industry and students who are involved in the Soil CRC. The Conference is **free** for all to attend. For more information and to register click [here](#)

Bushfire Recovery

MFMG recently collated a few resources that may help with the recovery process.

[For immediate assistance post fire, head to the Department of Human Services website here.](#)

For fodder requests and donations

Contact Livestock SA on 0419 035 459.

For stock loss and assessment

Contact PIRSA on 1800 255 556.

For mental health support

Contact Regional Access on 1300 032 186.

Contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

NRSE Bushfire Recovery Resources

Natural Resources South East provides support and advice to property owners impacted by bushfire to assist the recovery of natural resources and the ongoing sustainable management of properties. For more information click

[here.](#)

Sherwood Bushfire Recovery Resources

In response to the Sherwood fire in January 2018, the Sherwood Fire Local Recovery Committee was formed. Consisting of a variety of stakeholders, the committee coordinated recovery activities and ensured all affected people were supported. Landholder and committee member Charlie Crozier said the group has been key in assisting local people rebuild after the disaster. For more information and read about the lessons learnt about the fire click [here.](#)

Barossa Improved Grazing Group Bushfire Recovery Resource

The Barossa Improved Grazing Group (BIGG) have put together valuable information following the January and December 2014 fires in the Barossa Valley. For more information on the recovery process click [here.](#)

New Zealand offers Aussies affected by the bush fires free accommodation

A group of New Zealand farmers are offering free accommodation to fellow Australians caught in the SA, VIC and NSW bush fires. For more information or to register your interest please email nzbushfireaccommodation@gmail.com.

Preparing for catastrophic fire danger – a growers experience

There are a number of measures growers can take to help protect family, staff and assets ahead of days of catastrophic fire danger. South Australian grower Ben Wundersitz, who runs Anna Binna based at Maitland on the Yorke Peninsula, has made a significant investment in equipment and staff training to help them manage in the event of a catastrophic fire danger day. Protecting the lives of family and staff is front of mind for Ben in the event of a catastrophic fire danger day. To read more about the changes Ben has made click [here](#)



Thrivng Women 2020 Conference February 24 & 25, Hahndorf

The Thrivng Women 2020 Conference is the premier conference to secure a sustainable future for women living and working in agriculture and associated industries. An initiative of WoTL Ltd, the conference offers a stimulating and supportive environment that encourages the development of networks, knowledge, and skills through participation and contact with other women. It will link women from rural and urban backgrounds to formal and informal networks and provide opportunities for professional development and self-expression during and post conference. For more information click [here](#)

Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles.. Made Easy!

Do you understand what is required for your heavy vehicles to be roadworthy in line with the Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual? Not sure if your heavy vehicles are compliant?

Grain Producers SA, on behalf of Primary Producers SA, and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) are partnering to deliver a series of FREE workshops specifically to help SA primary producers understand heavy vehicle roadworthiness requirements. For more information click [here](#).

Climate & Carbon in Agriculture Conference

Climate & carbon in agriculture conference 31 March - 1 April at the Adelaide Convention Centre. Bringing together commodity sectors, primary producers, government, investors & researchers. Arming attendees with the latest climate & carbon information & strategies for the agricultural sector. For more information [click here](#).

Local Water quality & level observations - Current at 4/02/2020

- Salt Creek outlet 23204 EC Level 1.103
- Lake Albert at Meningie Sailing club 1874 EC Level .47
- Lake Alexandrina at Poltallach Plains 786 EC Level .575
- River Murray downstream Wellington ferry 250 EC Level .566

- River Murray at Woods Point 254 EC

For the latest River Murray Flow Report and Water Resources update visit

www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au

By Comparison

Stock	Production Can begin to decline
Beef Cattle	6,250 EC
Sheep dry feed	9,300 EC
Irrigated Pasture	Production can begin to decline
Balansa clover, Persian clover, strawberry clover & lucerne	800 - 1500 EC

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Coorong Tatiara Local Action Plan <http://www.coorong.sa.gov.au/gotolap>

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