

BRIEFING NOTE

To: The Hon Nola Marino MP - DITRDC National RDA Input Session
From: RDA Murray NSW
Submitted by: Edwina Hayes - CEO
Information Source: Weekly Regional Leader Forum feedback from 43 participants
Date: Friday 01 May 2020

1. What's happening on the ground?

- Peak bodies and leaders are bracing for economic crash; collecting economic projections and modelling recovery scenarios. Early indicators across Tourism and manufacturing are poor. Eg. mid impact modelling is showing 60% job losses in Tourism sector
- Business confidence and SME cashflow concerns. Reported lack of confidence to apply JobKeeper because predicting longer term solvency is difficult and processing times where banks are overwhelmed with overdraft and loan requests are prohibitive.
- NSW Murray 0% general security water allocation threatening domestic rice supply.
- Bushfire Recovery activity is progressing
- Cross border differences in NSW/Victoria impacting confidence about schools opening, businesses opening and state govt cash flow support
- Lack of confidence (in market and health measures) influencing high rates of voluntary business closures
- Manufacturing / goods production cliff looming, no new orders for anything eg:
- Supply and freight issues settling but pockets of complex, specific problems still remain across manufacturing, agriculture and food retail. Eg. Agricultural Chemical supply
- Local Government Services and other Government agencies are bringing projects forward, adapting systems to accommodate restrictions and delivering support and stimulus where possible.
- Local Government Budget processes being adapted, some concern about limitations on consultation and ratepayer/community confidence.
- General community sentiment: people looking to what their new normal will look like, many reflections on success of decentralisation of staff.

2. What impact are government interventions having (positive and negative)?

Positive:

- High local pride in achieving health outcomes.
- Job Keeper support and rising confidence in restriction measures mean some small cafes and shops are reopening with partial hours and takeaway/pickup services.

For noting:

- JobKeeper barrier to uptake: SME's are cautious to apply as their cashflow is low and they are required to pay back pay. Waiting times for loans and overdraft



processing requests are backlogged. Business confidence in mid-term solvency (6-months) is unsure.

- Local Government Elections postponed with mixed reactions. Highly dependent on state of each LGA.
- Rent relief is limited. Limited uptake/use of Code of Conduct by Mum and Dad Landlords. Media reports of large corporates/franchises demanding reductions.

Negative:

- LGA Childcare centres continuing to have major cashflow issues despite announcements for eligibility for Job Keeper style support
- Disparity in NSW – VIC alignment particularly with stimulus eligibility, travel and recreation restrictions, and monetary policy such as Payroll Tax. leading to a sense of unfairness and negativity.

3. What more could be done by government or others?

1. Support Softwoods Working Group Proposal
2. Support Ricegrowers Australia Proposal for exceptional water allocation to grow rice (as per precedent of 'Water for Fodder' scheme)
3. Support Landcare Conservation Jobs Proposal (see attached)
4. Provide % stimulus addition with GST BAS return (see attached)
5. Support the lifting of restrictions in a place based approach by % COVID-19 cases of population or remoteness factor.

What RDA Murray is doing,

- Negotiating transition of Leaders Group to Taskforce style, proactive, collective regional scale support for Recovery Stimulus and Support Activities.
- Communicating health and business advice from government and established and trusted sources of information.
- Engaging all levels of government locally to present solid, coordinated, meaningful leadership.
- Supporting sharing of economic modelling for recovery and adaptations
- Providing advice to support exceptional circumstances Temporary Visa Holders' inclusion in Job Keeper to retain high priority skills in regions

Edwina Hayes Ph: 0427267753

1 May 2020

Appendices:

1. Murray Regional Leaders Meeting notes and background data collection
2. Landcare Conservation Proposal with cover letter (attached)
3. RDA Murray GST Stimulus Proposal (attached)



Murray Regional Leadership Meeting 4pm 30 April 2020 - Raw Notes/Minutes

Apologies:

Senator Perin Davey
Sussan Ley MP
Helen Dalton MP
Danielle Condon DITRDC
Mark Francis, Murray Regional Tourism
Matt Hyde, Snowy Valley Council
Mick Pisasale Murray Irrigation Limited
Catherine Mariott NSW DPIE, NSW LLS, NSW Bushfire Response

Richard Bull – Chair, NSW Local Land Services

LLS have tried to maintain BAU function. Some working from home, they have set up a system where customers and client can maintain contact without face to face contact. Customers have been experiencing issues with technology in country areas. Still very patchy when it comes to getting sufficient technology. Rural industry is very much BAU, farmers are getting crops in and livestock markets are still operating. Farming community probably least affected by covid. I think there is a good case that could be presented to govt that Western area of NSW could be lifted out of the restrictions.

Des Bilske – GM Murray River Council

Murray River Council hasn't been affected all that much for BAU, but business offices have been closed down. Recently reopened two offices a couple of a days a week to provide banking services. Technology has created difficulties with connectivity. Started community strategic planning for technology. Biggest issue is having significant numbers of people working from home - increasing reporting of relationship issues and increases in domestic violence. They have some programs in place to follow up with affected people and extra socialisation to address those issues

Steve Pinnuck – GM Greater Hume Shire Council

BAU apart from customer service centres which are closed to face to face contact. All council services are operating as they were before. Key staff have been segregated across their locations. Only about 6 working from home. Have found options in offices for remaining staff (60ish). Business perspective - hospitality industry hardest hit. Some are starting to offer takeaway meals and drinks. Supermarkets and pharmacies seem to be getting increased business from people who would have traditionally gone to Albury to shop. Unexpected upside. Would like to move towards customer service points reopened in a couple of weeks if they can.

John Elgin - CEO BEC Business Advice

huge amount of noise in online service delivery causing confusion. A lot of webinars out there, people confused about choice and quality of courses. Has additional funding to help retailers, accommodation, arts, tourism, hospitality - available. Asked for people to let him know if interested.



Nina O'Brien – CEO Committee For Echuca Moama
discrepancy in rules to received \$10,000 govt grant between NSW and VIC. Easier in VIC than NSW. Raising it with NSW cross border commissioner. Reopening of education tricky for local families with kids who sit both sides of the border some in school, some at home. Sense of a shift in the last week in small to med business talking about how they are going to reopen.

Norm Brennan – Mayor Edward River Council
similar to other councils, half of their internal staff working from home. Agrees with the call for rural areas to have restrictions relaxed, but believes that they should be staged and begin with rural areas only, not for larger centres e.g. Albury

Frank Zaknich – GM Albury City Council
BAU in operations, looking to redeploy some staff to other critical areas of the business including community groups, meals on wheels etc. Have adopted draft budget for public comment, includes covid and relief package for residential rate payers. Extended consultation period online. Focussing on increased funding around increased stimulus. Councils are best placed to deliver on key projects through this stimulus to fully utilise resources.

Geoff Lowe – Ikon Suspension and RDA Murray Committee
payroll tax issues, seeing payroll tax removed completely. Challenges for businesses in understanding the JobKeeper system. Goalposts keep changing. Govt needs to provide better explanation and understanding of JobKeeper. Issues around stand downs in businesses – concerns around provisions under awards if people are paying correctly. If people get that wrong, what will that mean? Request for further relief for workers comp premiums. Businesses are having trouble managing cashflow and obligations – having to manage payments for JobKeeper entitlements before receiving govt funding. No cashflow in small businesses to manage this

Digby Jacobs – Director Constraints Measures Program. MDBA
rain in southern basin, jumps in catchments. Still have a drought update at this stage. Fingers crossed for ongoing wet winter. Darling system is all but finished for the season. Things can happen later but generally that is from cyclones Significant algae alerts still in the system. System has been slowed down to maintain environmental levels over winter. Digby also takes the sentiment from these meetings back to govts depts. NSW soil conservation service, River Works crew out doing works under their normal speed. Might contemplate accelerating program as part of the effort for recovery.

Tim Farrar – Regional Manager Australian Industry Group
seeing jobkeeper payment is having a huge effect, but most members have seen the phone have stopped ringing for new business. Once they have finished the work they have in pipeline there is nothing to go on with. Approaching a cliff very fast. Possible there will be a lot of job losses. If hospo reopens but manufacturing loses jobs there there will be no people spending in hospitality. Lead times for manufacturing are long - may cause issues with infrastructure projects being accelerated



Rent relief - Tim suggested that landlords have to offer discount. John Elgin has offered 30% discounts. Geoff – there is a code of conduct that the fed govt put out but there is very little relief going in the small to med bus area. Small businesses just paying rent even when closed down instead of asking for relief. Big end of town taking a sledgehammer to landlords and telling them they have to provide discounts

Pat Bourke– Mayor Federation Council

BAU, 80% working from home. Lots of phone calls from ag retailers about difficulty sourcing stock (chemicals etc) from china. Panic buying happened due to this. Difficulty for a number of businesses to find the variance in income to get jobkeeper. Community is doing great and keeping covid numbers down to minimal. Supports lifting restrictions but not too fast as would hate to see restrictions put in place again. Must maintain a fair bit of caution. Can see there is a fair bit of general relaxation in the community. Covid has given us all time to catch up and adjust to new ways of working, positive for future. (had issues with his digital connection).

Dan Brear – Regional Manager NSW Farmers

everyone is busy at the moment, conscious of our members being less engaged due to the fact that they are getting a season. Advised 6 weeks ago of potential issues with regards to getting ag supplied (retail of supplies). Land rates and rating for irrigated land vs dry land - a lot of questions around the differences. Member queries about this will be going to councils in the next few weeks. Issue of water - water for fodder and how that is being managed is variable and is a little stressful for those who have received the water but then may lose it if they don't use it.

Brian Miller – TAFE NSW and RDA Murray Committee

premier announced further fee free courses this morning. Restarted delivery through connected classrooms. Doing very well. Working on face to face delivery for critical skills areas. First tranche of fee free courses are at 80-85,00 students.

Graeme Kruger – General Manage Rice Growers Australia

water remains a big issue and **reliability of general security water**. Gradual decline in reliability through policy settings, working with local reps to discuss. Rice - no problem with food shortage in Australia but there is a problem with rice. Has had 3 engagements with fed and state ministers, pointing out that come the end of the year, exacerbated by covid, Australia will run out of rice. Not an easy fix so working through how to fix it. Second lowest crop ever since the 1930's.

Planning for next meeting

Focus on infrastructure and projects in the region.

Complex economic recovery modelling with bushfire, flood and drought recovery complications



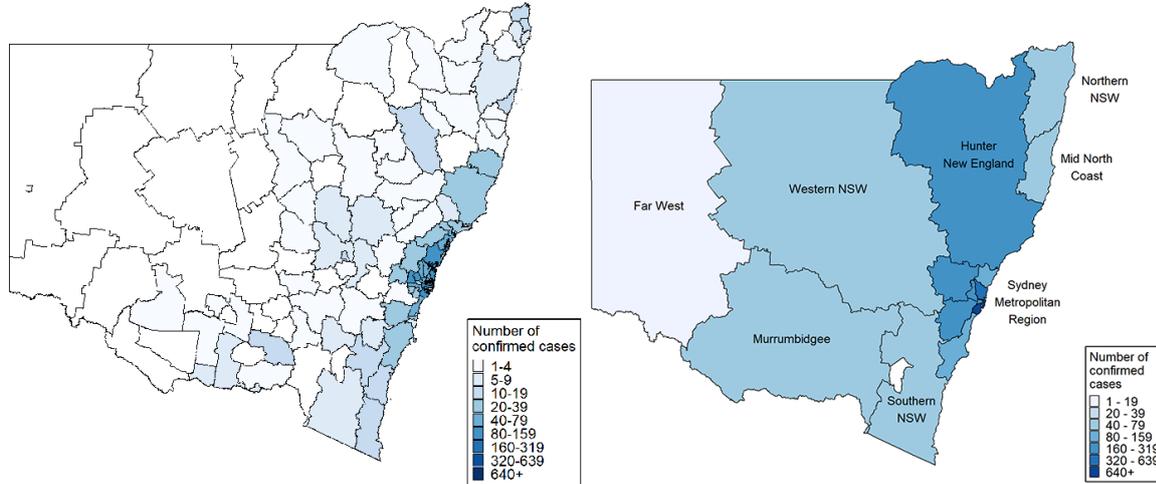
NSW Health data 29 April

Table: Confirmed cases, tests, percent positivity and rates of cases and tests per 100,000 residents

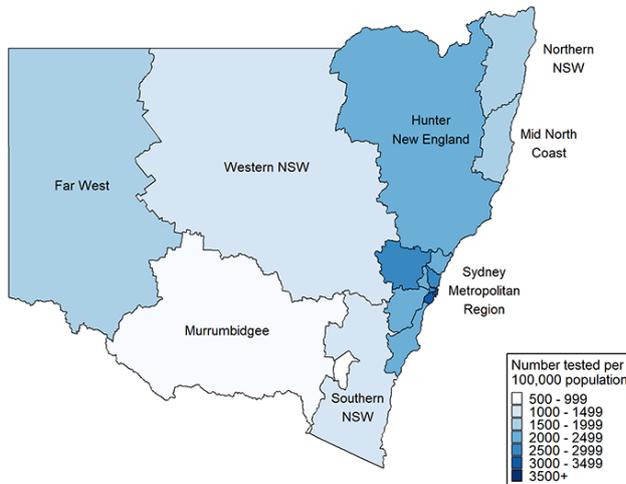
LHD	Cases	Tests	Percent positive	Cases per 100,000 residents	Tests per 100,000 residents
South Eastern					
Sydney	672	32881	2.04	70.07	3428.32
Northern Sydney	530	30552	1.73	55.44	3196.09
Nepean Blue					
Mountains	166	13717	1.21	42.46	3508.29
Sydney	248	20824	1.19	35.59	2988.65
Central Coast	116	8704	1.33	32.87	2466.68
Hunter New					
England	277	23550	1.18	29.08	2472.75
Illawarra					
Shoalhaven	112	10248	1.09	26.69	2442.24
Western Sydney	274	25519	1.07	26.01	2422.46
Southern NSW	55	3567	1.54	25.34	1643.24
South Western					
Sydney	235	23117	1.02	22.63	2225.93
Mid North Coast	50	4391	1.14	22.16	1945.80
Northern NSW	56	5646	0.99	18.04	1819.17
Western NSW	45	4392	1.02	15.79	1540.99
Murrumbidgee	47	3699	1.27	15.77	1240.82
Far West	2	604	0.33	6.63	2003.72
NSW Total	3016	220046	1.37	36.84	2688.09



Map: Confirmed cases – NSW by LGA and Health District



Rate of COVID-19 laboratory tests - NSW



Obvious misalignment between rate of infection and testing in MLHD

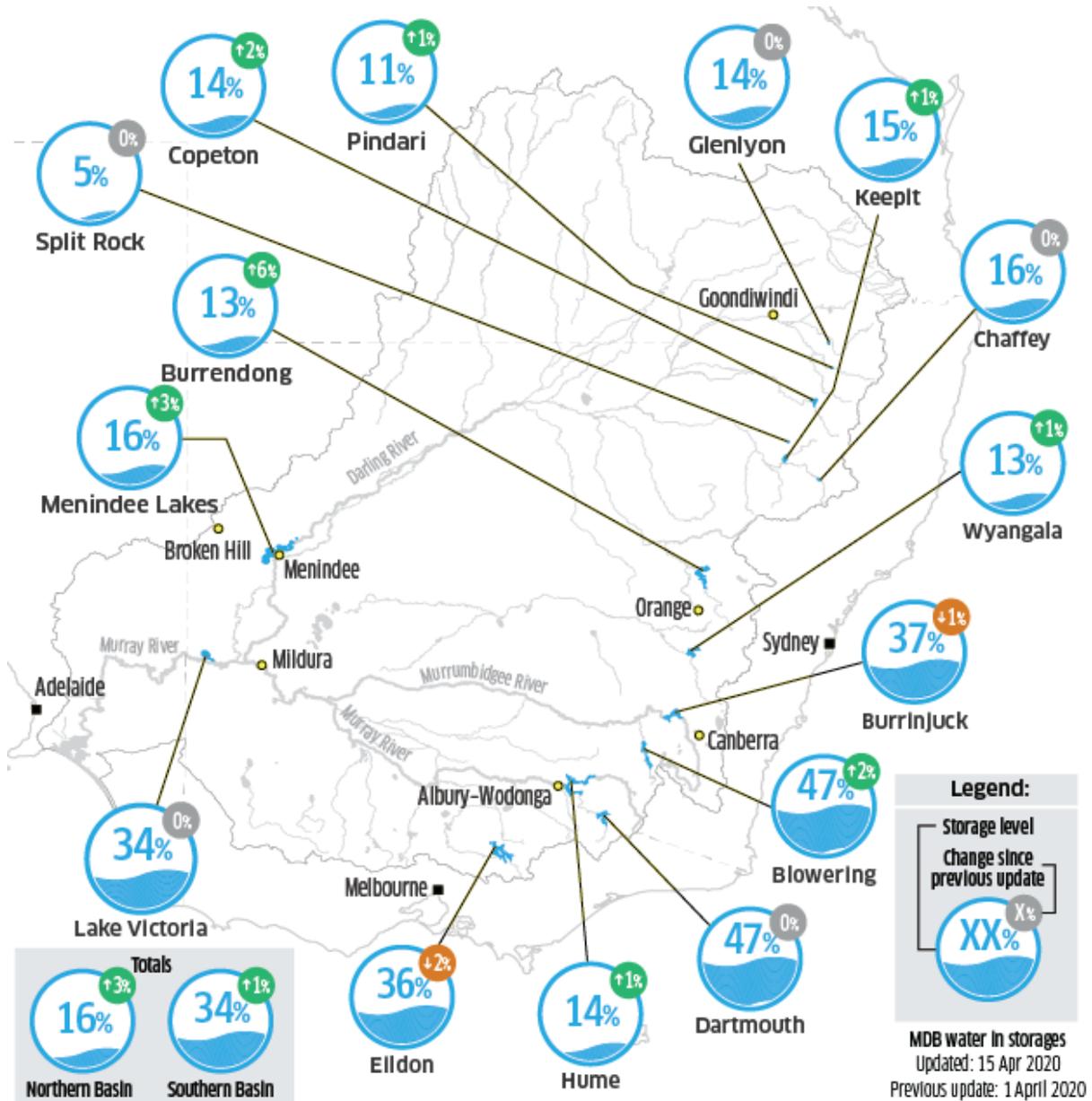
Information collected from Network

Digby Jacobs Director Constraints Measures Program. MDBA

Rained in the southern basin. No evidence of significant further inflows into Darling System in the immediate future.

<https://www.mdba.gov.au/managing-water/drought-murray-darling-basin/murray-darling-basin-drought-update>





Note Murray NSW storage down

1. What impact are government interventions having (positive and negative)? with examples

System being slowed down for water conservation and in response to decreased demands.

2. What more could be done by government or others?

As far as possible working with State and Commonwealth agency partners on how to keep momentum in our projects / programs. E.g. riparian erosion control is still working and will get into their busy part of the year for works with low river levels.



John Elgin BEC

There is an increasingly higher amount of online webinars – causing confusion and the question is attendance

Rick Bull Chair of Chair NSW LLS

Overall LLS is functioning extremely well – internet access/ bandwidth continues to be an issue in some regions but overall LLS technology systems have coped very well. Our adaption to restrictions demonstrates the resilience and flexibility of our people and our model. Our geographically dispersed and flexible workplace has ensured we were well placed to adapt to the changes required under COVID19 restrictions. Technology has worked surprisingly well in most cases. Business continuity planning process has enabled us to continue to be open for business. Whilst health and well being of staff during the restrictions are a concern we have systems in place to keep staff engaged and connected.

In relation to the request to provide advice about COVID Impact and advice to the government for the region, here are some comments;

- Minimal Impact to LLS Customers with the transition to the amended business model of online and minimal face to face interactions being implemented very well with customers and service providers. The only real impact to business is in regards to workshops and training sessions with social distancing rules and not being able to have large gatherings, however webinars are being utilised.
- Telecommunication infrastructure - Internet Access is an issue in most regions. With most of the community working remotely and at home it has heightened this issue. For those areas affected by the bushfires COVID-19 has amplified the damage the fires have done, some areas were not up and functioning adequately yet post the bushfires and COVID-19 has exacerbated that.
- Mental Health for staff and Customers is of concern, with people working from home, some of those home schooling their children with the inability to leave the house and participate in weekend sport and attend Gym classes or social gatherings has the potential to impact mental health. LLS has put systems in place to keep engaged and connected with Staff and customers.
- The Macro-economic issues are where some feel the impact will be for the region with casual and seasonal labour potentially being impacted with no international travel, affecting the fruit and meat industries particularly. Also with the price of products - will purchases be happy to pay a premium for the product or will that be at a loss to the supplier. This is a wait and see.

Some good stories are;

- With the Border fence project there will be a cash injection into a number of the regions around that state and while COVID-19 has affected the ground truthing at the start of the project with the inability to always attend and make the assessment an audit process at the end of the project has been built in to capture this.
- EPA 1080 accreditation was causing some concern for customers, however this issue was promptly dealt with and a 6 month gazetted extension given.



Tim Farrah AIGroup

This link is for our Covid-19 webinars on Movement of Goods and People

<https://vimeo.com/user50136822>

The cancellation of passenger flights to Australia has had a significant impact on the availability of export and import freight. We have been advocating for members' interests to the Government and a small number of flights are being resumed.

Prices have skyrocketed due to the short supply of space on the few flights that are operating and the very high demand.

Austrade are coordinating the Government's response for available export and priority is being given to perishable foods. We are strongly advocating for manufacturers and as more urgent matters are being resolved we are confident that a partial solution will be in place soon.

Much more detail on the webinars

Cheers, Tim

Steve Pinnuck GHSC GM

Council services impacted are detailed below:

- Closure of the Visitor Information Centre at Holbrook.
- Closure of Council Customer Services Centres to the public. Customer Service facilities remain operational either; by phone, email or electronically.
- Closure of Council libraries (including click and collect)
- Closure of caravan parks and camping ground (except for permanent residents)
- Closure of playgrounds, skate parks and the Submarine.
- Free waste day postponed, however waste facilities remain open.
- Closure of all public halls.
- Closure of selected public toilets (**Refer Annexure X**). **Note: Cleaning frequency of remaining public toilets has been increase.**

Other measures implemented to ensure business continuity and protection of Council staff include:

- Segregation of key staff with employees working from Culcairn and Holbrook Offices, Holbrook Library Complex and Jindera Community Hub. Several staff are working from home.

Staff segregation to achieve redundancy has occurred in the following areas:

- ✓ IT
- ✓ Water and Waste Water



- ✓ Rating
- ✓ Accounts Payable
- ✓ Payroll
- ✓ Building Inspection
- Allowing operational staff to travel in their own vehicle from home directly to the work site to assist in achieving social distancing.
- Restriction of face to face meetings and to decline invitations to face to face meetings at other locations.

Business feedback

- Hospitality industry (including accommodation, hotels , café's licensed and unlicensed sporting clubs etc) hard hit
- Some local businesses (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies) reporting an increase in trade with people shopping locally.

Stimulus measures

- Increase in Financial Assistance Grants
- Infrastructure funding for shovel ready projects
- Funding to provide direct assistance to ratepayers suffering hardship

Issues

- Federal Government package for Childcare did not include local government and whilst NSW State Government has announced a package the sector is still waiting on the detail to ascertain the financial sustainability of the childcare sector.
- State Government stimulus announced will have little positive impact west of the Blue Mountains.
- Digital connectivity continues to inhibit virtual meetings, business etc.

Steve Pinnuck GM 30.4.2020

Nina O'Brien C4EM

- Cross-Border Issue: Concern that the NSW Small Business COVID-19 Support Grant requires evidence of a 75% decrease in turnover compared to the Victorian Business Support Fund that is far less restrictive and does not specify a decrease in turnover. We are concerned that if they cannot get the \$10,000 cash boost, they are far less likely to spend their own money on getting good professional advice to ensure they remain afloat and pay their short term overheads like power and rent.
For example: There is one local business owner that has 2 coffee shops; 1 in Echuca and 1 in Moama. He has received the grant for his business in Victoria, but not the other one in NSW (where his trade is down 71%)
Proposed Solution: NSW government match the eligibility in Victoria, so small border community business operators in particular can access the grant to get good financial advice.



- Cross Border Issue: School in NSW are starting to re-open. Victoria are not. Some families have children in both systems and this impacts parents ability to work
- Positive shift in sentiment in last few days with small coffee shops, beauticians planning gradual re-opening with partial hours and take-way delivery.
- Ongoing issues with small business accessing job keeper. Concerns some are self-assessing.

Graeme Kruger, Rice Growers Australia

Please see below a general members update from the RGA that went out yesterday. It gives an overview of things referred to in my feedback which could assist with your reporting. As mentioned we have had numerous meetings about this matter with the following people and organisations:

- Federal:
 - Letter to the Prime Minister
 - Minister David Littleproud and his advisors
 - Minister Keith Pitt and his advisors
 - Department of Agriculture – senior executives
 - MDBA
 - NFF
- State:
 - Letter to Premiere and Deputy Premiere
 - Meetings with Minister Melinda Pavey and Advisors
 - Meetings with DPIE staff

RGA Board Update - Rob Massina, President

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the way we engage and meet. The RGA Board and staff have adapted as required by recently conducting its meeting via Microsoft Teams, one of the many video and meeting platforms available. The RGA has been using teleconference facilities for a number of years for staff meetings, Policy Committee meetings and peak body engagement, making the adjustments imposed by COVID-19 restrictions a lot easier in many ways.

Some key items on the agenda where; financials, 2020/21 budget, strategy health check, resourcing levels and managing the impacts of COVID-19.

Financials: The revised forecast for the 2019/20 financial year is better than what was budgeted albeit that we will still end up with small deficit. The Board also thanks all members who have paid their subs and encourages others to renew. Reminders have only recently been sent and if you have any queries please feel free to discuss with your Branch President, the RGA staff or myself. The 2020/21 budget is being refined and will be finalised in May.

RGA Strategy Health Check and Resourcing: The Board and staff are acutely aware that the organisation needs to meet the expectations of our members and consider ways to keep



improving on this. The three key policy committees plus leadership development are the mechanisms that inform Central Executive and are key to this, and will remain on the Board agenda.

Managing the Impacts of COVID-19: The Board and staff have adapted well by using telephone and video conferencing facilities while working from home in isolation. I am also pleased with how staff have adapted and shown creativity to ensure productivity has been maintained. Other reports in this update will give you an indication of some activities and meetings that have taken place in the last 4 weeks.

The Board is also considering options for the upcoming Branch AGM meetings, which will be subject to any updates and advice from the Government relating to meetings and gatherings.

The Board also approved the signing of the new Membership Agreement with New South Wales Irrigators Council (NSWIC).

- for more information contact Rob Massina rmassina@rga.org.au

Domestic Rice Supply Concerns

As reported recently in the media, there is potential for Australia to run out of a domestic supply of rice by the end of the year. This has resulted from reduced local production due to drought and poor water policy, and increased demand for rice here and overseas due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. This situation has been further complicated by countries such as Vietnam and Cambodia restricting rice exports to ensure their domestic supply, and persistent drought and locust plagues in other exporting nations.

Over the last month the RGA and SunRice have held numerous teleconference meetings with State and Federal Ministers and Government Departments to outline these exceptional circumstances and propose options to secure the production of domestic rice for Australian households in 2020-21.

Noting the above, the RGA was also disappointed with the reporting on the situation of the Rice industry in the recent ABARES report 'Analysis of Australian Food Security and the COVID-19 pandemic'. Our more detailed response to this report, outlining our particular concerns can be found [here](#).

To discuss this matter further please contact Rachel Kelly on 0437 767 289 or rkelly@rga.org.au



Water Sharing Plans

Over the last month the RGA has participated in the Water Sharing Plan reviews for both the Murrumbidgee and NSW Murray Valleys. The RGA has identified a number of changes to these plans aimed at protecting and enhancing General Security water reliability, including:

- Addressing the under-usage issue described below,
- Changing the management of Planned Environmental Water accounts such as the Barmah Millewa Allowance account,
- Ensuring appropriate environmental and economic plan objectives and
- Ensuring additional losses incurred in moving water downstream are adequately addressed.

The RGA is working with local Stakeholder Advisory Panel irrigator representatives to seek that the NSW Water Minister and Department address these concerns before submitting these Plans to the MDBA for accreditation.

Under-usage

Through persistent lobbying by the RGA and other local Stakeholder Advisory Panel irrigator representatives, the NSW government has agreed to include a provision in the Water Sharing Plans providing that in the event we use 'significantly less' total water in each valley than the valleys' allowed limit, then water sharing plan rules will be amended to encourage water use/take.

While this provision goes some way to addressing the problem of under-usage, the RGA is working with local representatives to lobby the NSW Department of Water and the MDBA to further define rules that could be changed to increase valley water use, and when these rules would be triggered. We view addressing this matter as critical to increasing General Security water reliability.

To discuss this matter further please contact Rachel Kelly on 0437 767 289 or rkelly@rga.org.au

Keelty report misses the mark

The Interim-Inspector General (IIG) Mick Keelty's report on watering sharing fell short of what the former Water Minister David Littleproud commissioned. 'The Inquiry into the Management of Murray–Darling Basin Water Resources' now appears to be little more than a political agreement to quash issues raised by our irrigation industries and Basin



communities. The RGA finds a large gap between the Terms of Reference and what was delivered. [Read more](#).

While the inquiry saw that 'stakeholders had wide-ranging and often significant concerns', the RGA doesn't believe that the report provided legitimate or adequate responses to those concerns. It has missed an important opportunity to take an in-depth look at current water sharing arrangements and allocation policies in the Murray-Darling Basin.

- for more information contact Rachel Kelly rkelly@rga.org.au

Carryover

There are a variety of strategies that water users can use to secure water into the following irrigation season. The following guide provides you with an overview of carryover in the Southern Murray Darling Basin and information which will help you make an informed decision when carrying over water either against your own entitlement or through a contractual arrangement.

Summary:

- In all systems, allocation can only be carried over if you own or have access to entitlement.
- In the southern NSW systems, water can only be carried over against General Security (GS) entitlement.
Allocation can be carried over against High (HR) and Low Reliability (LR) entitlement in Victoria
- The South Australian government determines whether water can be carried over on an annual basis.
- Carryover can also be 'leased' through a contractual arrangement.
- There are risks associated with carrying over water including spill (loss) and delayed availability.

For more detailed information about carryover in the NSW Murray, Murrumbidgee and Victoria, RGA's partners, H2OX have provided [this link](#)



Ongoing issues/proposal RDA Murray are working on from Ministerial feedback 1 May 2020

- Collect details to Fast track digital connectivity and quality
- Support Landcare Conservation Proposal
- Support Softwoods Working Group Proposal
- Communicate cross-border differences more effectively via both NSW and Vic Commissioners
- Align NSW and Victorian government criteria particularly with:
 - stimulus eligibility (\$10,00 cash grant),
 - travel and recreation restrictions and
 - monetary policy such as Payroll Tax.
- Greater scrutiny of bank loan processing times for SME's cash flow needs.
- Greater scrutiny of commercial landlords to ensure rent relief is being undertaken.
- Greater support for small commercial landlords to understand their rights and responsibilities re: rent relief.
- Improve communication about Job Keeper so that it can be easily understood.
- Provide % stimulus addition with GST BAS return
- Lift restrictions by % cases of population or remoteness factor.
- Support RGAs proposal for exceptional water allocation to grow rice

30 April 2020 Video meeting screen shot (feel free to use for social media)



Des Bilske GM Murray River Council	Edwina Hayes RDA Murray, Murray LLS	Rick Bull Chair of Chairs NSW LLS	Steve Pinnuck GM Greater Hume Shire Council
Sam Sharp RDA Murray	John Elgin SW BEC and Advice	Nina O'Brien C4EM and RDA Murray	Norm Brennan Mayor Edward River Council
Geoff Lowe RDA Murray Committee	Pat Bourke Mayor Federation Council	Dan Brear NSW Farmers	Brian Millar, NSW TAFE Deputy Chair RDA Murray
	Graeme Kruger Rice Growers Australia	Tim Farrah AIGroup	Alex Anthony MDBA

Also present during meeting: Digby Jacobs MDBA, Marg O'Dwyer DRNSW and Frank Zaknich GM Albury City Council

Photo credit: RDA Murray

