

# “Improved Management of retired irrigation land to reduce risks to horticulture”

Produced by Leighton & Mandy Pearce,  
Growing Solutions



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## Executive Summary

This report has been written by Growing Solutions on behalf of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Inc. The audience proposed for this report includes the Australian Federal Government and property owners in the Berri Barmera Council area. The project “Improved management of retired irrigation land to reduce risks to horticulture” was an 18 month project that concluded on the 31st March 2015. The authors of this report have ensured that the property owners participating in this project remain anonymous due to strict privacy legislation.

During the extended drought in the Murray Darling Basin between 2002 and 2010, for the first time South Australian irrigators were faced with restrictions on their water use. As these restrictions became more severe, some irrigators found it more and more difficult to keep crops, especially wine grapes and citrus, viable. Combined with the over-supply of grapes and oranges, some farmers were struggling to survive.

In response to these issues, as well as the increasing demand from sectors of the Australian Community to start returning water to the environment, the State and Australian Governments introduced schemes whereby struggling irrigators could voluntarily choose to be paid to pull out their crops and irrigation systems, and return the water back to the environment via the government. One of the requirements of these “exit grants” was that the land could not be returned back to irrigation use. Whilst the terms varied, this period was generally 5 years. It must also be recognised some irrigators simply “walked away,” with some properties persisting with dead vines or citrus in an uncleared state.

Since that time, the land has generally gone unmanaged and unutilised. This has created not only an ongoing social issue in the Riverland, including an increase in unemployment, mental health and community health issues, but environmental and farming productivity issues as well. These vacant blocks supposedly had become a haven for pest plants and animals, and possibly disease, which were having an impact on adjoining horticultural properties. These properties have also created an increase in fire risk in some areas, as well as providing a negative aesthetic value to the region.

Prior to the project commencing it was believed that In the Berri Barmera area, approximately 100-120 irrigators took up this offer, clearing around 1,200 hectares of crops (mostly vines). Since undertaking the property owner survey, ground trothing the maps and mapping the pest and weed species, we have discovered that the number of exit grants within the region was significantly less than first thought

### **The issue the entire Riverland community is currently facing is what to do with these properties.**

Whilst there is a push from some sectors within the community to allow some or all of this land to be returned to irrigation once the 5-year moratorium has finished, many questions remain unanswered. Given past over-supply issues, and irrigators’ inability to make ends meet on small blocks, is returning this land to irrigation the best option? Also, in many cases, it has been the “lowest value” land which has been cleared. This land may have higher salinity issues, be sitting in “frost pockets” or have lower than average soil fertility. In other cases, irrigators have opted to reduce the amount of land they irrigate, investing the exit grant funding they received from part of their property, into their remaining productive horticultural sections.

Regardless, consideration needs to be given to future, economically viable uses of this land. This project was developed by the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning (BBLAP) Committee to look at some of the issues from the retirement of irrigation from land, and a significant proportion of the premise of this project is intended to be around land-use and social change. It will seek to provide answers to questions such as:

- How do we manage the land and associate risks in the current climate?

- What can this land be used for in the future?
- Is re-creating the past (e.g. using it for the same purposes for which it used to be used) the best option?
- How do we best provide support to an irrigation focussed community facing change?

## Project Summary

Despite the project having a commencement delay, this project has proven to be very successful. The BBLAP committee recognised that local knowledge was a necessity for the successful completion of this project. Growing Solutions, a local consultancy with local knowledge was sub contracted to coordinate the project. In consultation with the federal Government, minor changes were made for the project to run efficiently and deliver its outcomes. These changes involved a slight shift in focus from identifying issues to providing viable options to exit grant property owners as they near the end of their contractual period and potentially re-enter the water market. The timing for this change in focus led to more property owners collaborating in the project, along with media interest and promotion.

Due to privacy laws governing the release of information about recipients of the exit grants, Growing Solutions identified exit grants through media advertising, attending the region's field days, speaking with other growers within the region and aerial photography maps. This multi-faceted approach resulted in Growing Solutions identifying the majority of exit grant recipients in the BBLAP region. The privacy of all property owners has occurred throughout this project through this report. The confidentiality of property owners has consistently remained a priority throughout this project. All photos included in the project report have been taken with the agreement of those property owners. All information concerning the property owners, photos, workshops and individual survey results will remain the property of Growing Solutions and the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Inc.

Once exit grants owners were identified, Growing Solutions toured the region to pin point the properties to ground-truth their location. Each property owner was then identified and contacted with a letter, phone call and/or email to set up a meeting to discuss the projects aims. Each property owner was surveyed to determine their experience of the exit grant and their future plans with their property. All surveys were completed in person, on the exit grant owner's property.

The results of the survey are detailed in the "[Grower Survey](#)" section of this report. It was clearly evident throughout the survey period that the majority of exit grant property owners were completely happy with their decision to take an exit grant and had no regrets. These grants came at a time of poor commodity prices, gluts in production, government-imposed reduced water usage and increases in input costs during the drought period. Many of these growers had found it extremely difficult to remain profitable during this period; hence the grants were very well-timed.

Through the course of the project, Growing Solutions received many calls from existing growers asking for an exit grant or exit grant recipients from other local action planning regions wanting to participate in this project, indicating there is still a high level of interest in exit grants in the region.

Since taking the exit grants, many of the property owners have moved towards permanent off-property employment in the region, and remain living in the family house on the exit grant property. With many of these properties being less than 15 Ha, property maintenance is easily achieved. One of the main initial



drivers to undertake this project was that there were reports that these properties were in a poor state of maintenance and were becoming overrun with feral pests including rabbits, and that weeds had been getting out of control. The visits with exit grant property owners showed that this argument could be easily refuted, as the majority of properties were well maintained. This would also become apparent through the mapping survey that was to follow the survey process.

Through the survey process it was noted that many of the property owners that received exit grants were at retirement age or approaching it. Very few exit grant property owners were under 40 years of age, although the people purchasing these properties are mostly in the younger group.

During the survey period in October 2014, Workshop 1 was held in both Berri and Barmera to ensure all exit grant property owners had an opportunity to attend. The primary aim of Workshop 1 was to encourage these property owners to providing direction for the project, ensuring that the project delivered relevant and beneficial information to the property owners. The property owners that attended these workshops identified potential speakers and topics for the following round of workshops and potential properties that they would like to visit on the tour planned for later in the project. Although the majority of exit grant property owners could not attend due to work commitments, all the information for these workshops was passed on via email.

Following the success of the first workshops, Workshop 2 was held in February 2015, once again in both Berri and Barmera. These workshops consisted of speakers from a range of organisations, previously identified (Workshop 1) as being vitally important for the exit grant property owners to plan and progress their properties following the moratorium period of no irrigation. Once again these workshops proved to be a great success, and again the information received was passed on to the property owners unable to attend. Anecdotally we have had reports that this series of workshops had created a ground swell of activity from exit grant property owners organising meetings with the local irrigation trust to assess their individual opportunities to re-enter the irrigation market. The information provided at these meetings was informed and precise and eliminated the misinformation that was regularly circulating throughout the industry.

Another major activity of this project was the bus tour of the region, showcasing property owners that developed their properties without growing the traditional citrus, grapes and stone fruit. Identified by workshop one participants, the group visited a range of properties that were growing alternative crops and often diversifying the industries that they had experienced in the past, and often using a lot less water. It was an eye-opening experience for the exit grant property owners as they witnessed a group of self-driven, motivated, enthusiastic and entrepreneurial property owners that were really “giving it a go”. A common theme was the property owners were trying to be “Price setters, not Price Takers.” Most were not dependent on an overarching body telling them what they will be paid for their produce. A brief report of who we visited, what we saw and how they were doing it can be found in the “[Bus Tour](#)” section of this report.

Throughout this project a mapping exercise was also conducted to measure the levels of weed and pest incursions. During this exercise it was clearly evident that the levels detected were very low. Low rabbit activity was discovered, despite the mapping exercise having been done during a period of generally high rabbit numbers, while one single box thorn was discovered on one property. The suggestion that these properties had been overrun with weeds and pests can be clearly refuted through the evidence presented via the mapping exercise.

Throughout the running of this project the sub-contractor has made observations that would significantly contribute to future projects and the future of exit grant recipients. All of the properties visited during the bus tour involved property owners that were self-driven, invested a lot of their own time and knowledge, passionate and were doing something different. Currently exit grant property owners have nobody invested in their interests nor are not being represented by any group. The development of an Alternatives Industry Body may provide this opportunity to the BBLAP to fulfil this need within the region.

Attendance at all activities was lower than anticipated. This occurred for a number of reasons: a significant amount of exit grant property owners have retired and had no interest in replanting their property, other owners had work commitments, while some had decided on what they were going to do and did not require information nor support through the project activities. These property owners were essentially busy with getting on with it, and had made significant steps to progress their plans.

Future grant applications could focus on the opportunities surrounding an alternative produce group, or case studies on property owners that have moved from an exit grant to a new venture, identifying what they are doing differently this time. Case studies could also be prepared on the properties we visited during the bus tour.

Natural Resources South Australian Murray-Darling Basin spoke at the second round of workshops about next generation property planning. There is an opportunity for the BBLAP to coordinate a group of 5-10 exit grant property owners to undertake this process, identify opportunities and make informed decisions towards their future growth and industry. It was clearly evident that all the sites visited on the bus tour had benefited from some form of planning.

It is obvious that the learnings from this project exceed what the project was originally designed to learn. Unexpected learnings include:

- The actual numbers of exit grants received in the Berri Barmera region was significantly below what was reported,
- The actual area of land was significantly below what was reported,
- Pre-existing maps suggested the numbers, locations and area of exit grants properties were found to be significantly inaccurate,
- Only 20% of survey participants interested in revegetation,
- No evidence exists to suggest that the exit grant properties are havens for pest and weeds or diseases,
- Strong interest in alternative crops to be grown,
- Many exit grant recipients have reached retirement age,
- As a result of receiving the exit grant, many ex-growers had to find full time work,
- Many of the property owners that undertook exit grants were growing either citrus or wine grapes under dated irrigation systems,
- By July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015, all exit grant property owners will be able to visit re-entering the market. At the time that this report was written, many of these property owners were still unsure of what they would be doing with their property,
- Many property owners keep the irrigation infrastructure on their property to re-develop in time.

Key suggestions:

- Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Inc could work with NR SAMDB to coordinate next generation property planning for exit grant recipients.
- An alternative industry leadership group could be initiated.
- Non exit grant land needs be managed for pest, weeds and diseases.
- Working with these property owners into the future is a key to their success.

For further information, please contact the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Inc. Office.

## Promotion

The project was promoted through the media, including ABC radio, ABC TV, The Murray Pioneer, and several other media outlets that picked up on the story, as per the links below:

- [ABC news 10 September 2014](#)
- [ABC TV news 13 October 2014](#)
- [The Murray Pioneer 14 October 2014](#) (pictured next page)
- [ABC Radio 14 October 2014](#)
- [Freshplaza 14 October 2014](#)
- [ABC Radio 21 January 2015](#)
- [ABC News 21 January 2015](#)
- [Weatherzone 15 February 2015](#)
- The Murray Pioneer 17 February 2015 (pictured next page)

## Growers prepare for the end of five-year exit grant moratorium...

# SECOND CHANCE

ALMOST five years after many local growers took part in government exit grants – and with little to no input from their governments – a second chance is being given to them in a new program.

In 2008 and 2009 local growers applied for the United States Exit Grant, which was funded by the United States government. It was then the second chance for growers to get back into the industry.

But now, with the end of the five-year exit grant moratorium, growers are being given a second chance to get back into the industry.

Leighton Pearce, of Growing Solutions, said the five-year moratorium was a mistake, and it was time to give growers a second chance to get back into the industry.

“The money paid off all my debts – I was stress free and didn’t have the banks nagging me.”

“It was the best choice I’ve ever made, considering other growers are now going through hardships with the prices in the wine industry.”

Lloyd Wright, committee member of the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning group that staged the workshops, said many local growers were keen to see their properties flourish again.

“Growers are interested in their properties returning to some profitable and productive irrigation use – whether it’s them doing it or someone else,” he said.

“There could be interest from other irrigators wanting to use someone else’s exit grant land, which has an advantage because it’s already been cleared.”

Meanwhile, Mr Asimopoulos has no plans to own a permanent entitlement again, instead he will lease water and grow annual crops from now on.

“I’ve missed out on a summer crop, but I’ve put in 4.5 hectares of plant lucerne and started a winter crop with garlic and tomatoes for next year,” he said.

Mr Wright said growers have been encouraged to consider entering niche industries that have developed since the drought, rather than growing wine grapes.

“No one has shown any interest in going into an oversupplied industry like wine grapes,” he said.

“It’s nice to see the growers are keen to put in the planning work to make sure that what happens on their land has a market and is going to be profitable.”

Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning group will hold a bus tour for exit grant growers on Tuesday, March 3 to show them alternative local businesses and farms.

## Second chance for exit grant growers starts now

By Leighton Pearce

It’s time for exit grant growers to get back into the industry. The five-year moratorium on exit grant land has ended, and growers are being given a second chance to get back into the industry.

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The Murray Pioneer 21 October 2014

## WE'RE BACK

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The Murray Pioneer 17 February 2015

## 8 NEWS www.murraypioneer.com.au

# Growers back in business

Continued from page 1

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Renmark & Paringa Junior Netball Association

**AGM**

Wednesday 11th,  
February at 7.00pm

Renmark Council Chambers  
Apologies to Chantel  
0419 803 780




**Berri-Barmera Local  
Action Planning**

**Wanted: Exit Grant Properties**

The Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee is delivering a project to assist growers in the Berri-Barmera council area who have a property for which an exit grant has previously been taken. Workshops will be held to assist in identifying options for these properties as the five-year moratorium comes to an end, featuring guest speakers from Central Irrigation Trust, Berri-Barmera Council, Rural Business Support, SARDI, PIRSA, Regional Development Australia, Waterfind & Natural Resources—SAMDB.

Monday 9 February 9:00—4:15  
Berri Resort Hotel, Riverview Drive Berri  
Tuesday 10 February 9:00—4:00  
Lakeside Resort Motel, Lakeside Drive Barmera

Please RSVP to:  
Leighton Pearce: 0427 688 028  
leighton.pearce@gmail.com



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Please RSVP to:  
Leighton Pearce: 0427 688 028  
leighton.pearce@gmail.com

## Calling exit grant takers

RIVERLAND irrigators who took the Federal Government exit grant five years ago have been invited to a workshop aimed at helping locals revitalise their land.

Growing Solutions – a local business sub-contracted by the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee – is managing a project to support growers who are coming to the end of their exit grant moratorium period.

The business aims to provide growers with some options for alternative uses for their land.

The workshops will include guest speakers from Central Irrigation Trust, Berri-Barmera Council, Rural Business Support, SARDI, PIRSA, Regional Development Australia, Waterfind and Natural Resources SA Murray Darling Basin.

The workshops will be held at the Berri Resort Hotel next Monday, February 9, from 9am, and the Barmera Lakeside Motel next Tuesday, February 10, from 9am.

For more information, or to attend a workshop contact Growing Solutions on 0427 688 028.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20



# Looking towards the future for exit grant properties

## IMPORTANT DATES

Series one workshops to identify options for future use of land

Monday 13/10/2014 10am - 3pm  
(GPA Accounting Conference Room, 7 Riverview Drive Berri)

Tuesday 14/10/2014 10am - 3pm  
(Barrera Lakeside Resort Motel Dining Room)

Series one workshops with guest speakers

Monday 9/2/2015 10am - 3pm  
(GPA Accounting Conference Room, 7 Riverview Drive Berri)

Tuesday 10/2/2015 10am - 3pm  
(Barrera Lakeside Resort Motel Dining Room)

Bus tour

Monday 23/2/2015

## "Looking towards the future": A program for exit grant properties

With the five-year moratorium on exit grant properties nearing its end, the Berri-Barrera Local Action Planning Committee is coordinating a series of workshops, as well as a bus tour, aimed at assisting local growers in identifying options to make their dormant land more productive.

The series one workshops in October

will involve seeking ideas from growers on alternative uses for the land, and following on from that, the series two workshops in February will deliver guest speakers to provide information about the options identified.

The bus tour will look at various enterprises around the region, which have implemented alternative ideas.

For further information, contact Leighton Pearce (Growing Solutions) 0427 688 028 [leighton.pearce@gmail.com](mailto:leighton.pearce@gmail.com)



*Project flyer*

# Wanted: Exit Grant Properties

The Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee is delivering a project to assist growers in the Berri-Barmera council area who have a property for which an exit grant has previously been taken. Workshops will be held to assist in identifying options for these properties as the end of the five-year moratorium comes to an end.

Monday October 13 10:00am—3:00pm  
7 Riverview Drive Berri

Tuesday October 14 10:00am—3:00pm  
Lakeside Resort Motel, Lakeside Drive  
Barmera

## **Please RSVP to:**

Leighton Pearce: 0427 688 028  
leighton.pearce@gmail.com



*"The Murray Pioneer" ad copy for Series 1 workshops*





*Growing Solutions' Leighton Pearce at the Riverland Field Days*

## Workshop 1

### Aim

The role of workshop one was to ascertain the issues that property owners were experiencing and what information was required to minimise these issues. Workshop one was repeated in both Berri and Barmera. Each group identified their issues, topics, desired speakers and industries that they would like to learn more about to progress the management of their exit grant properties. The results of each workshop are detailed in the following documents below.



*Workshop 1 (Berri)*



*Workshop 1 (Barmera)*

## Workshop 1 Agenda for Berri & Barmera

### Workshop 1 Berri 13/10/14 & Barmera 14/10/14

10:00- 10:20	Morning Tea
10:20 – 10:40	Welcome & Introduction
10:40 – 11:00	Aim of the day
11:00 – 11:40	Issues with the respect to the ending of the moratorium
11:40 – 12:00	Exit Grant maps
12:00 – 12: 20	Purpose of the survey
12:20 – 12:30	Grower contact details
12:30 – 1:00	LUNCH
1:00 – 1:40	Identify Priority topics and speakers for workshop2
1:40 – 2:10	Identify places for the tour
2:10 – 2:30	AFTERNOON TEA
2:30 – 2:40	Purpose of Mapping
2:40 – 3:00	Close

## Results for Berri Workshop 1

Outcomes of grower meeting held in Berri, 13 October 2014

	Issues and Questions	Speakers/Topics	Tour ideas
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water markets – products available/what's best for my business?</li> <li>Costs to reconnect/buy back water?</li> <li>When are my 5 years up?</li> <li>Where is the best security water to be obtained from?</li> <li>How much irrigation water is left after Govt buybacks?</li> <li>Where will the water come from to re-enter irrigation?</li> <li>Low water use crops – what's viable?</li> <li>What happens with recommencing water?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water trading (Tom Rooney)</li> <li>CIT (Cavin McMahon)</li> <li>SARMS Contacts (Andrew Johnson – program sponsor, Ben Fee – Program manager, Kym Walton – Team leader, Regional support)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commercial rabbit farmer, fur, meat – is there anyone out there?</li> <li>Mushroom farming</li> <li>Sultanas (Darren Kennedy)</li> <li>Date Palm (Dave Reilly)</li> <li>Native seeds (Ken? Warren? Schwarz)</li> <li>Jojoba</li> <li>Native flowers (Frank Heward – Monash)</li> <li>Herbs (Bruce Heward)</li> <li>Blueberries</li> <li>Exotic flowers (Annie Hatch)</li> <li>Capers (Jeff Porter/Helen Jones)</li> <li>Figs (Beech)</li> <li>Quangdongs (Schwartz)</li> <li>Frickly pear – Opuntia</li> <li>Trustworthy central marketing guru</li> <li>Bush tomato (Simarloo)</li> <li>Citrus peel/citrus oil</li> <li>Bees – honey and pollination</li> <li>Carob</li> <li>Eucalyptus (oil)</li> <li>Lavender Farm (Mario Centofanti)</li> </ul>
<b>Regulations/council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can councils look at any proposals by potential participants without having to submit a full development application (i.e. keep input costs down for applicants)</li> <li>Have councils considered rate holidays or significant reductions e.g. for a period of 5 years to assist/encourage development</li> <li>Will there be an ombudsman to interact between exit grant owners &amp; local council/Govt departments etc? so cases can be presented as a group – more bargaining power</li> <li>Where will money be found from within Govt to support re-entry into irrigation?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Native flora/fauna expert – maybe a Mallee Botanical Garden (possible tourist attraction)</li> <li>RDA – future visions for the district/assistance with negotiating with council (Nicole Jachmann)</li> <li>Council (David Beaton)</li> <li>Centrelink – New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (income support and training for small business)</li> <li>Business SA – re business set up</li> <li>Tourism (Tony Sharley)</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amalgamation/division costs, so people can keep house but sell land</li> <li>After 5 year moratorium is up, are there any other restrictions on the use of the land?</li> <li>Opportunities for land consolidation – not just for primary production, but possibility of alternate land use</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Market gardens (Vietnamese families – Renmark)</li> <li>Organics</li> <li>Hydroponics/Aquaponics (Dominic Smith/Don Erceg/Mick Harper)</li> <li>Hydroponic strawberries</li> <li>Fish farm</li> <li>Garlic</li> </ul>
<b>Agronomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Niche product development – what opportunities exist to collaborate &amp; develop new high value products</li> <li>CSIRO/PIRSA/SARDI – new crops, potential to introduce, particularly low water requirements</li> <li>What can I grow with little water/little effort?</li> <li>Ideas for niche or alternate crops</li> <li>High density animal husbandry i.e. feedlot – can councils consider this in appropriate areas?</li> <li>Cover crops which don't need water? To improve soil before crops</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative crop specialists (viability, costs, growing problems etc)</li> <li>Re-veg experts (BBLAP)</li> <li>Alternative crops (PIRSA)</li> <li>Irrigation expert</li> <li>Capers (Barry Porter)</li> <li>People growing alternative crops and grain crops and low water use</li> <li>Greg Butler (Biochar)</li> <li>Medicinal hemp/industrial hemp</li> <li>Native seeds (BBLAP/Renmark High)</li> <li>Oilseeds, sunflowers, saffron – high production (biodiesel)</li> <li>Native flowers (BBLAP)</li> </ul>	
<b>Finance/funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Are there models that could be adapted to assist business incubation i.e. allow/develop new entrants to ag/hort industry?</li> <li>Review any applications on a 1 on 1 basis. Issue some sort of licence to allow activities to be trialled</li> <li>Are there any grants available to help finance re-entering irrigation?</li> <li>How do I lease my land?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finance (RLS – Jeff McDonald)</li> <li>Rural Finance (Lloyd Wright)</li> <li>Good, down-to-earth accountant re preliminary budget etc</li> <li>PIRSA Funding (Kym Walton)</li> <li>Carbon market</li> <li>Property planning (Tony Randall NRM)</li> <li>Experts in ferreting out grants/scholarships etc</li> </ul>	



## Results for Barmera workshop 1

### Outcomes of grower meeting held in Barmera, 14 October 2014

	Issues and Questions	Speakers/Topics	Tour ideas
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cost to reconnect water</li> <li>I would like to know what the cost of water will be in 5 years</li> <li>How much water do I need for reconnection?</li> <li>Can we grow more than one type of crop (i.e. diversifying over 25 acres)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CIT – Gavin, Andrew Baker</li> <li>CIT – water situation (buying costs/running costs)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversification               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There was a group working on this in the Riverland – where is it now?</li> <li>- Someone from this group to speak – Lance Degenhardt</li> </ul> </li> <li>Solar farms – anyone offering assistance with these?</li> <li>Fish breeding (Brendan Parker – Renmark)</li> <li>Ken Swartz re Quandongs</li> <li>Pistachio nuts</li> <li>Yabby farm</li> <li>Pauline Jachmann (Apple cider – Loxton)</li> <li>Dates</li> <li>Capers</li> <li>Organic farms</li> <li>Tony Sharley (tourism)</li> <li>Ducks (someone in Barmera is doing this)</li> <li>Woolshed Brewery</li> <li>Bella Lavender</li> <li>Hydroponic strawberries</li> <li>Dine Sigismondi (Solar)</li> <li>Lucerne farm</li> <li>Veggie farmer</li> <li>Overland Corner Hotel</li> </ul>
<b>Regulations/ council</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When does the moratorium end?</li> <li>What crops to plant?</li> <li>What if an existing grower has sold his land and is getting some of the exit grant money back from CIT?</li> <li>How long will it take?</li> <li>Do you have to grow crops? Can I set up a duck farm?</li> <li>Do you know who the exit grant growers are</li> <li>Will we get our exit fee back for the second 5-year period?</li> <li>What are the restrictions in developing non-horticulture projects in this region?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nick Xenophon</li> <li>Kym Walton – PIRSA (re grants)</li> <li>David Green (Dept of Human Services, Concession card &amp; Rural Prog. team – Multicultural &amp; Rural Prog. Team)</li> </ul>	
<b>Agronomy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there a list of suggestions as to what is needed in the region (more capers? More dates? More almonds? Or is there enough already?)</li> <li>What is the future for grapes in this region? We still have grapes in production – should we change now?</li> <li>Can I sub-divide my property for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternative crops</li> <li>Options – animals?</li> <li>Research help</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>housing development opportunities?</li> <li>Who can assist in finding suitable markets in China for food supply?</li> <li>Is there any financial assistance for developing new projects apart from 3IP grants?</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aquaculture</li> <li>RDA:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Export growth support</li> <li>- Grants</li> <li>- Support</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Finance/ funding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will there be a grant for growers to re-enter?</li> <li>Will there be help for growers with costs of water until commercial viability?</li> <li>Are we going to get any Government funding? If so, how much?</li> <li>What is the status of ongoing efficiency grants for exit recipients?</li> <li>What \$ credit do we get from CIT?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business planning</li> <li>Grants/support options</li> <li></li> </ul>	





## Workshop 2

### Aim

Workshop 2 was repeated in both Berri and Barmera. The aim of this workshop was to invite specialised guests as identified at workshop 1 to speak with the property owners.



## Workshop 2 Agenda for Berri

“Looking towards the future”: A program for exit grant properties

Series 2 workshop at Berri Resort Hotel

9:00am Monday 9 February 2015

- 9:00            Coffee/tea and biscuits
- 9:20            **Welcome**  
*Leighton Pearce - Project Manager*
- 9:30            **Entering the market**  
*Gavin McMahon - CEO, Central Irrigation Trust*
- 10:30          **Planning Laws**  
*Gary Brinkworth - Manager of Environmental Services / Major Projects –and Cheryle Pedler - Development Officer – Planning, Berri-Barmera Council*
- 11:30          **Finance**  
*Lloyd Wright - Rural Financial Counsellor, Rural Business Support*
- 12:00          Lunch (provided)
- 12:30          **Berri-Barmera Climatic Future**  
*Peter Hayman - Principal Scientist, Climate Applications SARDI (South Australian Research and Development Institute)*
- 1:15            **Irrigation Industry Improvement Program (3IP) & funding opportunities**  
*Kym Walton – Team Leader, Regional Support (River Murray Sustainability), PIRSA (Primary Industries and Regions SA)*
- 2:00            **Future Opportunities**  
*Nicolle Jachmann - Economic Development Manager (Riverland), Regional Development Australia*
- 2:45            Afternoon tea (provided)
- 3:00            **Water opportunities**  
*Alister Walsh – CEO, Waterfind*
- 3:45            **Property Planning**  
*Tony Randall - Sustainable Farming Program Coordinator, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin*
- 4:15            **Wrap-up**  
*Leighton Pearce – Project Manager*



## Workshop 2 Agenda for Barmera

“Looking towards the future”: A program for exit grant properties

Series 2 workshop at Barmera Lakeside Motel

9:00am Tuesday 10 February 2015

- 9:00            Coffee/tea and biscuits
- 9:20            **Welcome**  
*Leighton Pearce - Project Manager*
- 9:30            **Entering the market**  
*Gavin McMahon - CEO, Central Irrigation Trust*
- 10:30          **Finance**  
*Lloyd Wright - Rural Financial Counsellor, Rural Business Support*
- 11:00          **Planning Laws**  
*Gary Brinkworth - Manager of Environmental Services / Major Projects –and Cheryle Pedler - Development Officer – Planning, Berri-Barmera Council*
- 12:00          **Property Planning**  
*Tony Randall - Sustainable Farming Program Coordinator, Natural Resources SA Murray-Darling Basin*
- 12:30          Lunch (provided)
- 1:15            **Irrigation Industry Improvement Program (3IP) & funding opportunities**  
*Tim Smythe – Regional Manager, Murraylands and Riverland, PIRSA (Primary Industries and Regions SA)*
- 2:00            **Future Opportunities**  
*Nicolle Jachmann - Economic Development Manager (Riverland), Regional Development Australia*
- 2:45            Afternoon tea (provided)
- 3:15            **Water opportunities**  
*Alister Walsh – CEO, Waterfind*
- 4:00            Wrap-up  
*Leighton Pearce – Project Manager*





## Bus Tour

### Aims

The aim of the bus tour was to introduce successful business owners to the exit grant property owners that have diversified their business and undertaking enterprises that are different to typical horticultural activities occurring in the region.

### Bus tour Itinerary

“Looking towards the future”: A program for exit grant properties

Bus Tour – leaving from the Berri Resort Hotel

8:00am Tuesday 3 March 2015

8:00	Muster at Berri hotel
8:15	Travel to Monash
8:30	Organics & Aquaponics (Dominic Smith – Pundi Produce)
9:30	Travel to Loveday
9:45	Capers (Kolophon Capers - Barry Porter and Helen Jones)
10:30	Travel to Cobdogla
10:45	Irrigated Dryland Crops (Cobdogla Fodder - Shane Nettle)
11:30	Travel to Winkie
11:45	Lavender - tour & lunch (Bella Lavender Estate - Mario Centofanti)
1:00	Travel to Gurra Gurra
1:30	Date Palms (Gurra Downs Date Company - Dave Reilly)
2:30	Travel to Loxton
2:45	Hydroponics (Craig Ferber - Loxton to Bookpurnong Local Action Planning Committee)
3:30	Travel to Berri
3:45	Return to Berri Resort Hotel

## Bus Tour Flyer



# LOOKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE

**A FREE BUS TOUR FOR OWNERS OF EXIT GRANT PROPERTIES**

**Come and view some alternative industries which may suit your property as you move out of your moratorium period....**

- organics • aquaponics • capers • irrigated dryland crops • lavender
- date palms • hydroponics • and more! •



**Are you the owner  
of an exit grant  
property?**

**Interested in  
exploring  
alternative  
industries?**

**Hoping to find  
some new ideas on  
how to use your  
land?**

**Tour is FREE and  
lunch is included**

**LEAVING AT 8:00 AM  
FROM THE BERRI  
RESORT HOTEL ON  
MONDAY MARCH 3**

**RSVP ESSENTIAL TO:**

Leighton Pearce  
0427 688 028  
leighton.pearce@gmail.com

## Bus tour Site 1 report

Property: Pundi Produce

Owner: Dominic Smith

Contact details:

- [dominic-smith@live.com.au](mailto:dominic-smith@live.com.au);
- 0413 886 750,
- 71 Crossing Rd Monash

Enterprise: Aquaponics and Organics (basil, chives, spring onions & Murray cod)

Established: 2014 (cost \$40,000 to establish)

Area: 0.5 Ha

Water usage:

- 200L/day, plus
- 3000L per tank initial setup
- Uses 6000L per Ha
- Electricity cost \$1000 per Qtr

Income:

- \$30,000 per 8 tables,
- \$1200 per table
- up to 9 crops per year per table (basil 3 week from planting to crop)
- 80% of profit is derived from vegetables
- inputs include fish food, but grows own seedlings

Is there a market?

- Yes
- Dominic is adding a further 42 tables within 3 months
- Sells into Adelaide

Why is it successful?

- No fertiliser costs as fish manure supplies nutrients

Is there room for increased production?

- Yes
- Looking at completely closing the system by introducing rabbits to feed on the root systems and worms to breed in rabbit droppings
- 365 day a year job (essentially to tend to fish)

For further information contact: Andrew Deseree





## Bus tour Site 2 report

Property: Kolophon Capers

Owner: Barry and Helen Porter

Contact details:

- [kolophon@me.com](mailto:kolophon@me.com)
- 0427 183 359
- 99 Hunt Rd Loveday

Enterprise: Caper growing and value adding

Established: 2006

Area: 0.8 Ha

Water usage: 0.5 kL per plant

Income:

- Range from \$90 - \$180 per kg
- Harvest between Oct to April, can leave property throughout season

Is there a market?

- Yes
- 9 growers in Australia

Why is it successful?

- Researched crop extensively
- “There is a huge market for anything different” Barry Porter
- Produces own seedlings as well
- Limited number of pests
- Puts customer first
- Self-driven, motivated and enthusiastic

Is there room for increased production?

- Yes



“Improved Management of retired irrigation land to reduce risks to horticulture”  
Produced by Leighton & Mandy Pearce, Growing Solutions – March 2015

## Bus tour Site 3 report

Property: Cobby Fodder

Owner: Shane Nettle

Contact details:

- [cobbyfodder@bigpond.com](mailto:cobbyfodder@bigpond.com)
- 0428 887 115
- 8588 7115



Enterprise: Irrigated dryland cropping and sheep, fodder shop

Established: 2002

Area: 110 Ha

Water usage: 6.5 ML per acre

Income:

- \$48,000 for 8 ac of lucerne

Is there a market?

- Yes
- A lot of potential with livestock enterprises

Why is it successful?

- Diversity
- No one else is doing it

Is there room for increased production?

- Yes, Shane buys in a lot of lucerne hay



For further information contact: Shane Nettle has produced a flyer with the costs and income for such a enterprise.

## Bus tour Site 4 report

Property: Bella Lavender

Owner: Mario and Lucy Centofanti

Contact details:

- [bellalavender@bigpond.com](mailto:bellalavender@bigpond.com)
- 0413 510 916
- 8583 1184

Enterprise:

- Lavender farm
- Valued added Lavender products
- Café with pizza shop
- Mini golf
- Tourist site

Established: 2003

Area: 1 Ha of Lavender

Water usage: 0.5 ML per Ha

Income:

- \$20 per 100ml of distilled oil,
- 6KG of flowers provide 100ml of oil
- Takes 45 mins to distil 100 ml
- They make 20L of oil per year

Is there a market?

- Yes, Australia import Lavender oil

Why is it successful?

- Diversity in business
- No one else is doing it



- Pizza shop has significantly improved business
- Lavender alone is not viable for Bella Lavender
- Self-driven, motivated and enthusiastic

Is there room for increased production? Yes

For further information contact: Mario Centofanti





## Bus tour Site 5 report

Property: Date Palms, Gurra Gurra

Owner: Dave and Anita Reilly

Contact details:

- [reilly@gurradowns.com.au](mailto:reilly@gurradowns.com.au)
- 521 Gordon Rd Gurra Gurra
- 8583 8314

Enterprise: Date Palms

Established: 1996, first planted 2004

Area: 30 Ha

Water usage: approx. 15ML per Ha (similar to Almonds)

Income:

Is there a market?

- “Our future has not been written to date”, Dave is still learning and is not sure if the date will be a success

Why is it successful?

- First of its kind in region
- Researched extensively
- Many overseas trip to Arab nations
- Australian product is counter seasonal to rest of the world’s production
- Can turn off water if restrictions are in place, although the palms will not crop, but stay alive
- Can irrigate with high salt water
- Puts customer first
- Self-driven, motivated and enthusiastic
- Makes his own mistakes and learns

Be aware:

- Labour intensive



Is there room for increased production? Yes, take 5-10 years for cropping.

For further information contact: Dave Reilly



## Bus tour Site 6 report

Property: Riverland Aquaponics

Owner: Max Grey

Contact details:

- Per Craig Ferber (Loxton to Bookpurnong LAP)
- 0429 913 508
- [craig@lblap.org.au](mailto:craig@lblap.org.au)

Enterprise: Aquaponics and hydroponics

Established: 2012

Area: 0.5 Ha

For further information contact: Craig Ferber



## Grower Survey

### 1. Name

Results have been withheld due to privacy.

### 2. Age Group

#### All Data

Age group?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
<40	8.7%	2
41-50	21.7%	5
51-60	34.8%	8
61-70	26.1%	6
>70	8.7%	2
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	3
	<i>skipped question</i>	7

Table 1: Results of Q2 (Age Group)

#### Summary

The majority of exit grant recipients are over 50 year old. This was clearly evident while visiting each property owner; many of these owners have now retired.

### 1. Address

Results have been withheld due to privacy.

### 4. Township

#### All Data

Township:		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Berri	6.7%	2
Barmera	20.0%	6
Cobdogla	3.3%	1
Loveday	20.0%	6
Monash	36.7%	11
Glossop	10.0%	3
Winkie	3.3%	1
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 2: Results of Q4 (Township)



### Summary

The above table and chart show the distribution of exit grant property owners in the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning region.

## 5. Exit grant or permanent vacant land

### All Data

Exit grant or permanent vacant land?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Exit grant	100.0%	30
Permanent vacant land	0.0%	0
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 3: Results of Q5 (Exit grant or permanent vacant land)

### Summary

All owners that were surveyed are recipients of exit grants. This question was asked for future project evaluations.



Exit grant property



Permanent vacant land

## 6. Area of exit grant (Ha):

### All Data

Ha surveyed
4
3
2.8
5
8
10

12
8
8
6
6
7.5
12
14
10
8
11.5
14.5
6
10
8
3.6
5
1
9
<b>192.9</b>

Table 4: Results of Q6 (Area of exit grant (Ha))

### Summary

Throughout the survey period, the property owners surveyed accounted for 193 Ha of land area.

## 7. Does the exit grant cover more than one land title?

### All Data

Does the exit grant cover more than one land title?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	44.8%	13
No	55.2%	16
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 5: Results of Q7 (Does the exit grant cover more than one land title?)

### Summary

Many of the exit property recipients owned land over more than one title.

## 8. Title number if know

### Summary

Land title were supplied, but have been withheld for this report.

## 9. How much water (ML) did to relinquish?

### All Data

Water sold (ML)
80
34
31
60
102
84
98
97
84
70
114
190
75
60
116
144
110
92
48
100
12
84
<b>1885</b>

Table 6: Results of Q9 (How much water (ML) did to relinquish

### Summary

Of the property owners surveyed, 1885 ML of water had been returned to the Commonwealth.

## 10. Which best describes you?

### All Data

#### Which best describes

“Improved Management of retired irrigation land to reduce risks to horticulture”  
Produced by Leighton & Mandy Pearce, Growing Solutions – March 2015

you?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Initiator and owner of an exit grant property	89.7%	26
Purchaser of an exit grant property	10.3%	3
Initiator and seller of an exit grant property	0.0%	0
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 7: Results of Q10 (Which best describes you?)

### Summary

The majority of property owners visited were the initiator / still owned the property.

## 11. When will your land become available for irrigating again?

### All Data

When will your land become available for irrigating again?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
N/A Sold	0.0%	0
For sale	0.0%	0
Within 6 months	76.7%	23
Within 6-12 months	20.0%	6
Within 12-18 months	0.0%	0
Within 18-24 months	0.0%	0
Not sure	3.3%	1
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 8: Results of Q11 (When will your land become available for irrigating again?)

### Summary

All exit grant properties will be able to irrigate, once they have appropriate water rights and a license to irrigate from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2015. During the surveying, most property owners were anticipating that they would be able to re-enter the irrigation industry within 6 months.



Property with irrigation commencing



## 12. Ownership of exit grant property

### All Data

Ownership of exit grant property		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Still owns	96.7%	29
Owns and Leases out	0.0%	0
Sold < 1 year	0.0%	0
Sold 1-2 years	0.0%	0
Sold 2-3 years	0.0%	0
Sold 3-4 years	0.0%	0
Sold 4-5 years	0.0%	0
For sale < 1 year	0.0%	0
For sale 1-2 years	0.0%	0
For sale 2-3 years	0.0%	0
For sale 3-4 years	3.3%	1
For sale 4-5 years	0.0%	0
		3
<i>answered question</i>		0
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Table 9: Results of Q12 (Ownership of exit grant property)

### Summary

The majority of property owners surveyed still own the exit grant property.

## 13. If sold, who purchased your block?

### Summary

Information withheld due to privacy.

## 14. Land use from commencement of exit grant to now?

### All Data

Land use from commencement of exit grant to now?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No commercial enterprise on land	96.6%	28
Some commercial enterprise on land	3.4%	1
Sold	0.0%	0
Leased	0.0%	0
		2
<i>answered question</i>		9
<i>skipped question</i>		1

Table 10: Results of Q14 (Land use from commencement of exit grant to now?)

## Summary

The majority of exit grant properties remained commercially idle during the five year period. Several property owners grew dryland crops that were sold for hay / grain.



*Cereal crop on an exit grant property*



*Goats being raised on an exit grant property*

## 15. What crops did you grow prior to the exit grant?

### All Data

What crops did you grow prior to the exit grant?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No crop	0.0%	0
Citrus	16.7%	5
Wine grapes	83.3%	25
Table grapes	0.0%	0
Stone fruit	10.0%	3
Pome fruit	0.0%	0
Nut fruit	0.0%	0
Vegetables	3.3%	1
New Owner not sure	0.0%	0
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

*Table 11: Results of Q15 (What crops did you grow prior to the exit grant?)*

## Summary

While citrus and stone fruit property owners accessed the exit grants, wine grape growers made up the majority of exit grant recipients.

## 16. What irrigation system did you have in place prior to the exit grant?

### All Data

What irrigation system did you have in place prior to the exit grant? (Sprinklers
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= under tree)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Overheads alone	16.7%	5
Overheads with soil moisture monitoring	0.0%	0
Overheads with automation	10.0%	3
Overheads with SSM & automation	0.0%	0
Sprinklers alone	36.7%	11
Sprinklers with soil moisture monitoring	16.7%	5
Sprinklers with automation	6.7%	2
Sprinklers with SSM & automation	6.7%	2
Drippers alone	20.0%	6
Drippers with soil moisture monitoring	0.0%	0
Drippers with automation	13.3%	4
Drippers with SSM & automation	3.3%	1
New owner not sure	0.0%	0
Furrow	3.3%	1
Other (please specify)	0.0%	0
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 12: Results of Q16 (What irrigation system did you have in place prior to the exit grant?)

### Summary

Sprinkler systems alone made up a significant majority of properties that received exit grants. It is also noted that properties that had not undertaken efficiency improvements, like automation and soil moisture monitoring did not participate in great number in receiving exit grants.

## 17. Planned land use post exit grant moratorium

### All Data

Planned land use post-exit grant moratorium		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Remain unirrigated indefinitely	3.3%	1
Re-plant with new irrigation system	33.3%	10
Unsure	56.7%	17
Sell	6.7%	2
Lease	0.0%	0
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 13: Results of Q17 (Planned land use post exit grant moratorium)

## Summary

The majority of property owners that received exit grants were unsure of the future for their property.

## 18. If replanting, which crops are you planning to replant with?

### All Data

If re-planting, which crops are you planning to replant with?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Citrus	0.0%	0
Wine grapes	0.0%	0
Table grapes	0.0%	0
Stone fruit	0.0%	0
Pome fruit	0.0%	0
Nut fruit	7.4%	2
Vegetables	14.8%	4
Not sure	55.6%	15
Other (please specify)	29.6%	8
		2
		<i>answered question</i> 7
		<i>skipped question</i> 3

Table 14: Results of Q18 (If replanting, which crops are you planning to replant with?)

## Summary

The majority of property owners that received exit grants were unsure of the future for their property with respect to re-planting

## 19. What alternative crops are you planning to plant?

### Summary

There were only two responses to this question. One property owner was going to plant almonds, while the other planned to plant lucerne.

## 20. If replanting, what irrigation system are you planning to install?

### All Data

If replanting, what irrigation system are you planning to install? (Sprinklers = under tree)		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Overheads alone	12.5%	3
Overheads with soil moisture monitoring	4.2%	1
Overheads with automation	8.3%	2

Overheads with SSM & automation	0.0%	0
Sprinklers alone	4.2%	1
Sprinklers with soil moisture monitoring	8.3%	2
Sprinklers with automation	0.0%	0
Sprinklers with SSM & automation	0.0%	0
Drippers alone	8.3%	2
Drippers with soil moisture monitoring	0.0%	0
Drippers with automation	4.2%	1
Drippers with SSM & automation	4.2%	1
Not replanting	0.0%	0
Furrow	0.0%	0
Not sure	50.0%	12
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	4
	<i>skipped question</i>	6

Table 15: Results of Q20 (If replanting, what irrigation system are you planning to install?)

### Summary

The majority of property owners that received exit grants were unsure of the future for their property with respect to irrigation system

## 21. Have you retained the infrastructure (e.g. posts, dropper lines, irrigation lines) for possible use in the future?

### All Data

Have you retained the infrastructure (e.g. posts, dropper lines, irrigation lines) for possible use in the future?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	62.1%	18
No	37.9%	11
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 16: Results of Q21 (Have you retained the infrastructure (e.g. posts, dropper lines, irrigation lines) for possible use in the future?)

### Summary

Many property owners retained the infrastructure to set up an irrigation system into the future. In the mapping section of this report, there are several photos of irrigation system components in paddocks.



*Retained infrastructure*

**22. What do you estimate your incurred costs are to maintain your exit grant property (including fuel, chemicals, time and machinery depreciation / use / maintenance) per year?**

**All Data**

What do you estimate your incurred costs are to maintain your exit grant property (including fuel, chemicals, time and machinery depreciation / use / maintenance) per year?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Nil	0.0%	0
\$0 - \$1000 / Yr	17.2%	5
\$1,000 - \$2,000	48.3%	14
\$2,000 - \$4,000	20.7%	6
\$4,000 - \$6,000	0.0%	0
\$6,000 - \$10,000	0.0%	0
\$10,000 - \$15,000	0.0%	0
\$15,000 - \$20,000	0.0%	0
\$20,000 - \$30,000	0.0%	0
\$30,000 - \$40,000	0.0%	0
>\$40,000	10.3%	3
New owner not sure	3.4%	1
		2
<i>answered question</i>		9
<i>skipped question</i>		1

*Table 17: Results of Q22 (What do you estimate your incurred costs are to maintain your exit grant property (including fuel, chemicals, time and machinery depreciation / use / maintenance) per year?)*



### Summary

The majority of property owners have estimated that is cost between \$1,000 to \$2,000 annually to maintain their property in a clean state, free from weeds and pests, as per the example below.



## 23. How would you describe the cleanliness of your exit grant property?

### All Data

How would you describe the cleanliness of your exit grant property?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Extremely well maintained and clean	69.0%	20
Somewhat maintained and clean	27.6%	8
Not well maintained or clean	3.4%	1
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 18: Results of Q23 (How would you describe the cleanliness of your exit grant property?)

### Summary

The majority of the properties were extremely clean; this is evident in the photos taken during the mapping exercise (example right). This finding opposes the original thoughts and media speculation that these properties were un-kept and a haven for invasive weeds and pests.

## 24. How often have you undertaken block maintenance to ensure your block is clean (pest and weed free)?

### All Data

How often have you undertaken block maintenance to ensure your block is clean (pest



and weed free)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0 hrs per week	10.3%	3
1-5 hrs per week	86.2%	25
5-10 hrs per week	0.0%	0
10-15 hrs per week	0.0%	0
15-20 hrs per week	0.0%	0
> 20 hrs per week	3.4%	1
New owner not sure	0.0%	0
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 19: Results of Q24 (How often have you undertaken block maintenance to ensure your block is clean (pest and weed free)?)

### Summary

The majority of exit grant property owners estimate that they spend between 1 to 5 hours per week to maintain their properties.



## 25. Have you or are you planning to access funding (e.g.3IP, PIPSA etc.) funding to restructure your exit grant property?

### All Data

Have you or are you planning to access funding (e.g.3IP, PIPSA etc.) funding to restructure your exit grant property?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	10.0%	3
No	80.0%	24
Unsure	10.0%	3
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 20: Results of Q25 (Have you or are you planning to access funding (e.g.3IP, PIPSA etc.) funding to restructure your exit grant property?)

## Summary

The majority of these property owners were ineligible to gain funding due no longer having a water licence. Several property owners were investigating options whereby their neighbour would purchase their property using one of the grants available.

## 26. The Berri Barmera LAP is coordinating workshops and a bus tour to aid exit grant recipients in investigating available options to restructure their block as a commercial enterprise. Are you interested in attending any of the following events?

### All Data

The Berri Barmera LAP is coordinating workshops and a bus tour to aid exit grant recipients in investigating available options to restructure their block as a commercial enterprise. Are you interested in attending any of the following events?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
I still own my land and have no interest in attending any of these events	0.0%	0
I have sold my land and have no interest in attending any of these events	0.0%	0
Berri Workshop 1 Oct 2014 Mon 13th 10am - 3pm (Berri)	16.7%	5
Barmera Workshop 1 Oct 2014 Tues 14th 10am - 3pm (Barmera)	6.7%	2
Berri Workshop 2 (guest speakers) Feb 2015 Mon 9th 10am - 3pm (Berri)	63.3%	19
Barmera Workshop 2 (guest speakers) Feb 2015 Tues 10th 10am - 3pm (Barmera)	56.7%	17
Tour of alternative practices within the region Feb 2015 Mon 23rd 8am - 5pm (Meet outside Berri Hotel for bus departure)	73.3%	22
No interest	16.7%	5
		3
<i>answered question</i>		0
<i>skipped question</i>		0

Table 21: Results of Q26 (Have you or are you planning to access funding (e.g.3IP, PIPSA etc.) funding to restructure your exit grant property?)

## Summary

Although many property owners indicated that they attend future workshops and the bus tour, these numbers were never reached to work commitments by the exit grant recipients.



*Participants at series 2 workshops*

## 27. With regards to the workshop 2 in February, we are planning to have speakers from many fields to update growers. Would you be interested in hearing from representative from....

### All Data

With regards to the workshop 2 in February, we are planning to have speakers from many field to update growers. Would you be interested in hearing from representative from....

Answer Options	Yes	No	Unsure	No interest	Response Count
PIRSA / 3IP	7	1	13	5	26
CIT	16	0	7	5	28
Tourist Industry	6	0	13	6	25
Weed management	4	1	14	5	24
Finance	9	1	12	5	27
Property Planning	7	0	13	5	25
Berri Barmera LAP	7	0	12	5	24
Other (please specify)					3
					3
				<i>answered question</i>	0
				<i>skipped question</i>	0

*Table 22: Results of Q27 (With regards to the workshop 2 in February, we are planning to have speakers from many fields to update growers. Would you be interested in hearing from representative from....)*

## Summary

The series 2 workshops had speakers from CIT, PIRSA, Finance, property planning to ensure the information provided was what the property owners required.



*CIT's Gavin McMahon*



*Lloyd Wright from Rural Business Support*



*Peter Hayman from SARDI*



*Kym Walton from PIRSA*



*Nicolle Jachmann from Regional Development Aust.*



*Alister Walsh from Waterfind*

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*Natural Resources SAMDB's Tony Randall*



*Gary Brinkworth from Berri-Barmera Council*



*Cheryle Pedler from Berri Barmera Council*

## 28. Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office undertaking a mapping exercise on your property?

### All Data

Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office undertaking a mapping exercise on your property?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	100.0%	30
No	0.0%	0
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

*Table 23: Results of Q28 (Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office undertaking a mapping exercise on your property?)*

### Summary

All property owners provided approval to undertake mapping on their property, although one owner declined the mapping service on the day of mapping.

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## 29. Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office taking photos for reporting purposes on your property?

### All Data

Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office taking photos for reporting purposes on your property?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	93.3%	28
No	6.7%	2
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 24: Results of Q29 (Would you agree to a representative of the Berri Barmera Local Action Planning Office taking photos for reporting purposes on your property?)

### Summary

The majority of property owners provided approval of photo to be taken of their property. One property owners with two separate land titles did not provide this approval.

## 30. Have you experienced any changes on your property since undertaking the exit grant?

### All Data

Have you experience any changes on your property since undertaking the exit grant?					
Answer Options	Increased	Decreased	No change	Unsure	Response Count
Weed numbers	6	1	17	4	28
Pre-existing weed species	3	1	20	4	28
New weed species	5	1	18	4	28
Vertebrate pest (e.g. rabbit) numbers	7	1	17	4	29
Pre-existing vertebrate (e.g. rabbit) pest species	8	1	16	4	29
New vertebrate (e.g. rabbit) pest species	5	1	18	4	28
Invertebrate pest (e.g. insects) numbers	1	1	22	4	28
Pre-existing invertebrate pest	0	1	23	4	28

(e.g. insects) species						
New invertebrate pest (e.g. insects) species	1	0	23	4	28	
Disease numbers	0	1	22	5	28	
Pre-existing diseases	0	0	23	5	28	
New diseases	0	0	23	5	28	
Erosion	1	0	22	5	28	
Salinity	0	0	23	5	28	
Frost	0	0	24	4	28	
Native shrubs and grasses	4	0	19	4	27	
Biodiversity (birds and lizard activity)	6	0	17	4	27	
Other (please specify)						1
						3
						<i>answered question</i> 0
						<i>skipped question</i> 0

*Table 25: Results of Q30 (Have you experienced any changes on your property since undertaking the exit grant?)*

### Summary

The majority of property owners experienced no change with weed, pest, erosion, frost or biodiversity benefits during the five year period that their property lay idle. Several property owner experienced increase in rabbit numbers, which was evident while undertaking the mapping exercise. Photos in the mapping section of this report detail some of the rabbit damage witnessed.



*Many growers report increased numbers of kangaroos on their properties. It's possible that numbers have not actually increased; the kangaroos are simply more visible now due to the lack of tried to hide them.*

### 31. Would you like further information from the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee in regards to revegetation?

#### All Data

Would you like further information from the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee in regards to re-vegetation?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	20.0%	6
No	80.0%	24
		3
	<i>answered question</i>	0
	<i>skipped question</i>	0

Table 26: Results of Q31 (Would you like further information from the Berri-Barmera Local Action Planning Committee in regards to revegetation?)

#### Summary

The majority of property owners said that they had no interest in re vegetation of their properties.

### 32. Are you interested in collaborating and/or syndicating equipment and machinery with other growers on your land?

#### All Data

Are you interested in collaborating and/or syndicating equipment and machinery with other growers on your land?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	31.0%	9
No	69.0%	20
		2
	<i>answered question</i>	9
	<i>skipped question</i>	1

Table 27: Results of Q32 (Are you interested in collaborating and/or syndicating equipment and machinery with other growers on your land?)

#### Summary

Whilst in the minority, a significant number of property owners said that they would be interested in collaborating or syndicating machinery on their land. This option may provide several landholders with future viable options for their land.

### 33. Would you be interested in:

#### All Data

Would you be interested in:

Answer Options	Yes	No	Unsure	Response Count
Collaborating with other growers for production purposes	9	13	8	30
Syndication of machinery/equipment	9	14	7	30
Leasing your land	10	12	5	27
				3
			<i>answered question</i>	0
			<i>skipped question</i>	0

#### Summary

Whilst in the minority, a significant number of property owners said that they would be interested in collaborating or syndicating machinery on their land and or leasing their land. This option may provide several landholders with future viable options for their land.



## Mapping exercise

Conducted throughout the period of the project, the mapping exercise was to highlight the level of pest and weed incursions and fire risk of the exit grant properties. During this process, it was clearly evident that the exit grant properties that were mapped were clean and very low in pest and weed incidences. The collection of photos from all the properties mapped (**Appendix 2**) demonstrates the cleanliness of each property. Photos of pests and weeds are also shown, where found.

**Appendix 1** is the aerial maps of the properties, indicating where pests and/or weeds were identified, and labelled with property numbers, while **Appendix 3** is a table correlating photo numbers to owners' names and addresses. Neither of these will be released to the public.