

NEWS

## Roll-out of buses now hits the road

THE first buses for South Australia's new On-Demand bus trials have hit the road this week as part of a pilot program in the Barossa and Mount Barker.

The On-Demand public transport service will work in a similar fashion to ridesharing apps, enabling passengers to order a bus to take them anywhere within the service area. The 'Ke-oride' app is available in the App Store or Google Play Store and the trial will last for six months.

The On-demand transport services are available in the Barossa Valley on weekdays from 7am to 6pm and weekends from 10am to 5pm. There will be five buses in the Barossa Valley providing trips in the designated service areas.

The Barossa Valley service will cost \$6 for an adult and \$3 concession. In Mount Barker, rides will cost \$1.50 for adults and \$1 for concessions, including seniors.

# Hay drops aid victims



**FEED ASSISTANCE:** Craig and Amy Doecke, Angaston Transport, have organised a hay run to KI to help livestock owners on the island affected by fires.

BY KIARA STACEY

THE devastation caused by the Kangaroo Island bushfires prompted Angaston's Amy Doecke to turn to her community to help those in need.

Ms Doecke has family on KI who have been affected by the recent fires, and after providing assistance with fire recovery efforts at Cudlee Creek and Eden Valley, was keen to help out again.

"Using contacts from our business we sourced two loads of feed straight away," she said.

Ms Doecke wanted to see if she could fill a third load by putting the call out on Facebook, and within 24 hours she had already filled a fifth semi-load.

Ms Doecke said many drought-stricken farmers who had received donations in the past wanted to help those affected by fires.

The trucks have been delivering hay to KI the past week with the fifth load to be delivered on Tuesday night.

Two trucks from Angaston Transport and one truck each from Shane and Carly



CFS support.

Roocke, James and Cirsten Leditschke, and Darren and Julie Crouch were filled with four loads of hay and one load of straw plus \$7000 worth of fencing materials.

The KI hay drop has been co-ordinated with Livestock SA and PIRSA to determine who needs the feed and where it has and will continue to be delivered on KI.

Island care formed a list of items they required to aid recovery on KI of which Carly Roocke, sourced and collected donations to fill the cabs of the trucks.

"You always help your neighbours whether they are in KI or in Vic," Ms Doecke

**“**The outpouring from the local community has been amazing and we now have a sixth load of donated hay travelling over in the coming weeks.

**Angaston's Amy Doecke**

said. "The outpouring from the local community has been amazing and we now have a sixth load of donated hay travelling over in the coming weeks," she added.

In addition, Kalleske Chaff at Daveyston also supported farmers affected in the Adelaide Hills as a result of bushfires which erupted in December.

The family business donated a load Lucerne hay this month, thanking Curnow Transport for providing the freight at no charge.



## TRIPLE B FM 89.1 LOCAL RADIO GUIDE:

AS WE ARE A VOLUNTEER ORGANISATION, THESE PROGRAMMES COULD CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

**WEDNESDAY**

**Midnight** Triple B Music Mix **6.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **7.00 a.m.** The Morning Espresso with Jason **9.00 a.m.** Back on Track Request Show (08-8563 3788) Hosted by Boomer Roy **Midday** Midweek Party with Rob (Originals, Covers, Rock & Blues - Turn it Up) **4.00 p.m.** Gazza's Country or Sumthun like it! **6.00 p.m.** Counter Country with Michaela Jenke celebrating all things Alt. Country, Americana, Roots, Folk & Bluegrass **8.00 p.m.** Oz Odyssey with The Captain "Aussie Indie" **10.00 p.m.** Soul Safari (Funky Soul)

**THURSDAY**

Triple B Music Mix **6.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **9.00 a.m.** Zelda's heaps Mo's Blues, Last Thursday each month Kaleidoscope Arts in the Barossa. **Midday** Paul's Sounds of Summer **4.00 p.m.** Damo: The Show with No Name (Hits & Misses from the 70's to Today) **7.00 p.m.** The Jazz Man with Charlie **8.30 p.m.** Pash & his show "The Power & The Pash'n"

**FRIDAY**

**1.00 a.m.** Elektrik Cokernut (Electronica) **2.00 a.m.** Triple B Music Mix **4.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **7.00 a.m.** Helen's Friday I'm in Love **9.00 a.m.** Zofia's Friday Mix-Ups **1.00 p.m.** SandraG & The Amrap Lounge (New Australian Music - On Leave returning 2020) **3.00 p.m.** DJ Suzy & Triple B Music Mix **5.00 p.m.** Radical Roy (On or Off your Dial) alt. Triple B Music Mix **8.00 p.m.** Nostalgia Music with Charlie (Golden Oldies) **10.00 p.m.** Blues Lagoon (Blues)

**SATURDAY**

Soul Food (Soul & Funk) **2.00 a.m.** Triple B Music Mix **6.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **9.00 a.m.** The Triple B Music Mix **11.00 a.m.** The Wine Show with David, Ben, Virginia & Special Guests **Midday** Tony's Saturday Blend of 70's, 80's and 90's **4.00 p.m.** Goof's Blind Mullet (80's) & The Last Saturday of every month Charlie will join Goof from 4pm till 8pm alt. **6.00 p.m.** Rocking & Rolling with Steve P. **8.00 p.m.** The Late Shift with Norm (Requests :- 08-8563 3788)

**SUNDAY**

Blues Café (Blues) **2.00 a.m.** Deep River (Gospel/Blues/RnB) **4.00 a.m.** Triple B Music Mix **6.00 a.m.** Deep River (Gospel, Soul, RnB) **8.30 a.m.** Just Country with Norm T **Midday** "Anything Goes" with Sue & alt. weeks "Mix it up" with EV **3.00 p.m.** Sonic Safari "Global Grooves" with The Captain **6.00 p.m.** PeterP: Krome Plated Yabbies (Aust. & N.Z.) alt. Paisley Underground (Rest of The World) Garage / Psychedelic & Progressive Rock Music **8.30 p.m.** Short, Fat & Hairy with Damo & Rob (Anything & Everything - No Stone left unturned) then Soul Food (Funk + Soul)

**MONDAY**

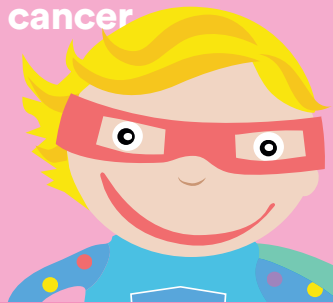
**Midnight** Triple B Music Mix **3.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **6.00 a.m.** SandieM's Triple B Music Train **10.45 a.m.** "Messages of Hope" by Richard Fox -Segment **11.00 a.m.** "Gazza's Aussie Country Show" **2.00 p.m.** Margaret's Live Wire Connections **3.15 p.m.** Martin Johnson for "Music, Art & Poetry" and "Yellow Street Band" with Damo Hutchins from "Off Ya Trio" and BBBfm 89.1 presenter **4.15 p.m.** CEO Barossa Enterprise Garry Velt and 2020, the year ahead **6.00 p.m.** Johnny Walker's Vinyl Show "Dig the Beat" followed by **10.00 p.m.** Teenage Riot (Garage R'n'B)

**TUESDAY**

Triple B Music Mix **4.00 a.m.** The Big Barossa Breakfast **6.00 a.m.** SandieM's Breakfast Show **9.00 a.m.** "The Swingin' Big Band Sounds" with Sue **11.00 a.m.** Barossa on Broadway "Anything Goes from Stage to Screen" with SandraG **1.00 p.m.** Paul's "Back in the Day" Hits of the 50's, 60's 70's & 80's **3.00 p.m.** Ruby's Tuesday (Oldies) **7.00 p.m.** Stay ExJordanary Show with Jordan **9.00 p.m.** Barossa after Hours with Eden & Cheyenne & then Elektrik Cokernut (Electronica)

Become a Sponsor or Volunteer of Barossa Radio BBBfm 89.1  
Phone: 8563 3788 • www.bbbfm.com

Every 36 hours an Australian child is diagnosed with an incurable blood cancer



Help us find a cure quicker. Donate at [captaincourageous.com.au](http://captaincourageous.com.au)

CAPTAIN COURAGEOUS

## You deserve the night off



Enjoy one of our delicious banquets. No cooking, no dishes!

## GAWLER PALACE CHINESE RESTAURANT

38 Murray Street, Gawler  
Phone 8522 2177  
[www.gawlerpalace.com.au](http://www.gawlerpalace.com.au)



LendingPro know loans like you know your business

- 2 minute online application**  
Compare 70+ lenders - apply anytime, anywhere
- Get in the know**  
Know your budget with an obligation free pre-approval
- Equip your business today**  
24 hour funding available

[lendingpro.com.au](http://lendingpro.com.au)  
1300 998 555



Apply today

**RIVERLAND** ADVERTISING FEATURE

Stoller Australia Southern SA territory sales manager Robert Peake with ZM2 Chelate liquid fertiliser.



Eagle Trailers and Campers managing director Brent Boardman displays the Eagle tipping trailers.



Gallard Group's Sam Gallard, Berri, says they are a one-stop shop for ground preparation.

# Sun shines on event

## Visitors flock to the 62nd field days

BY KIARA STACEY

**A**GRICULTURAL machinery was a big attraction at the 62nd annual Riverland Field Days, which drew more than 13,000 attendees from across SA last month.

The sun shone on Barmera during the two-day event, which offered local entertainment, lifestyle and home garden stalls, agricultural, horticultural and viticultural displays.

Whether big or small, more than 350 exhibitors contributed to the field day's success, including Emmetts, one of the state's largest John Deere dealers, which had two separate sites.

Emmetts Large Machines displayed an array of agricultural heavy duty machines for broadacre farming, while its "smalls" were dedicated to the residential handyman, yard clean ups and children's toys.

The latter exhibit won best small outdoors exhibition of the field days, while the winner of the best outdoor large exhibition was Todd Downs from River Murray Trading Post.

Mr Downs, who designs stock yards, said the event helped to facilitate brand awareness in the rural market.

"I think at times you can get caught up in your own little bubble, so getting out of the shop and actually experiencing the field days can open your eyes up," he said.

"At times you think you're the only one doing the daily grind of owning your own rural retail business, so seeing the other traders



Todd Downs and David Hand, River Murray Trading Post, are presented the Best Outdoor Exhibit award by Riverland Field Days' Ian Webber.

out there exhibiting their products increases your own enthusiasm to keep pushing on."

Mr Downs said at River Murray Trading Post, they always upgraded and improved sheep and cattle yards based on customer feedback.

The latest design, which was on display at the field days, is called the Ducks Nuts and Mr Downs said it had every feature a farmer could want.

During the event, many exhibitors held informative sessions for passers-by who had interest in products relevant to the region.

Mark, Dawn and Aaron Boehm, along with wife Sarah Tucker-Boehm, who are known in the Waikerie region for their avocado farm, were exhibiting for SA Soil Improvements.

Their exhibit was informing potential and existing customers who use the Bactivate solutions about the current and new products on offer.

They also promoted a new

## “

At times you think you're the only one doing the daily grind of owning your own rural retail business, so seeing the other traders out there exhibiting their products increases your own enthusiasm.

**TODD DOWNS**

product they are planting for the first time this season.

The Boehm family plan to have their first commercial finger lime harvest within the next three to five years, with a harvest period between January and June.

They believe finger limes will survive the tough conditions of the Riverland due to their native heritage in Qld.

The Gallard Group exhibited an array of equipment at the field days including mulching and shredding machinery relevant to the horticultural and agricultural industries. By constantly investing in research and

development, the group has maintained its strengths for a number of years.

It is well known for exploring avenues of efficiency and productivity, and staying abreast of industry trends; allowing it to evolve with the industry and adapt to its ever-changing needs.

Another business drawing interest at the field days was Overland Services, which provides a complete turnkey service for water design, supply, installation and commissioning of fire water storage tanks, fire hydrant/hose reel systems and diesel/electric fire pump sets.

SafePower Safety Systems,

which provides a range of electrical services from 240V appliances through to microwave radiation and fire exit lights, SA Power Networks, Dial Before You Dig, Adelaide Weighing Equipment and Phillips Surveyors were other standouts among exhibits promoting their services.

For visitors who liked to see the exhibits in action, demonstrations were a huge success. From hearing tests, massages, scooter demonstrations and tool demonstrations right through to machinery and equipment demonstrations, there was something for everyone.

More than 30 exhibitors chose to demonstrate their products, instilling trust for potential customers into the brands they were promoting and the services they were providing.

Many entertainment shows were presented at the field days to suit all tastes.

A handful of schools, the Australian Navy Band and Froth 'n' Bubble were all included in the entertain-

ment line-up where many grabbed a seat to enjoy a break from wandering the exhibits.

A wood-cutting exhibition, which was sponsored by Vinetech Machinery - the best machinery award winner at the field days - and yard dog demonstrations were also held.

At the event, which ran across nine avenues and three pavilions, there were many opportunities to taste different local produce. This ranged from the famous Riverland citrus, wine made from grapes grown within the region right through to the well-known metworst.

Having a cooking show as part of the field day experience also opened opportunities for visitors to try something new.

Celebrity chef Peter Kent, Salt & Pepper Catering, hosted the cooking demonstrations and was accompanied by the high schools for a cooking showcase.

The Riverland Field Day committee was pleased with the success of the event.

# Post-fire planning vital for grazing enterprises

BY QUINTON MCCALLUM

A MIXED livestock property owners meeting will be held at Woodside this evening as producers impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire begin planning for the next six months.

Livestock SA chief executive officer Andrew Curtis, who will present at the meeting, said for all farmers affected by fires across the state, planning for the next six months would be vital.

"We need to plan and to work out what feed requirements are going to be for the next six months because there isn't anything in the paddocks," he said.

Mr Curtis said buying in feed and putting stock on agistment were two options to get animals through, but long-term agistment was already getting "pretty tight".

"If you've got a cow you've got to expect that it's going to eat eight kilograms of dry matter a day for the next 180 days," he said.

"So farmers have to think about what their feed and water needs are and what their sourcing options are.

"We'll also be discussing what the options are for potentially selling stock for different enterprises."

Mr Curtis said another factor producers had to consider during recovery was looking after their land.

"Having stock on burnt paddocks is not good for both the stock or the paddock," he said.



**CHIPPING IN:** Volunteer Lincoln Woodcock (centre), with Livestock SA's Shannon Logan and Greg Cock at the Oakbank fodder depot, which has received and distributed more than 1000 tonnes of feed since the Cudlee Creek fire.

"We need to look after the topsoil so producers should look at confinement feeding options and options that will allow the topsoil to be maintained and cope with the autumn break when it comes."

Livestock SA has been a key figure in aiding farmers in the aftermath of recent bushfires, coordinating fodder depots at the Oakbank

Racecourse and Cape Jervis.

Mr Curtis said more than 1000 tonnes had been received and moved through the Oakbank depot since December 23, saying the organisation and recipients had been overwhelmed by the support from both large and small producers, as well as the Oakbank Racing Club.

"We've had people turning

up with trailer loads of hay and people turning up with road trains of hay," he said.

"We've had people driving and delivering hay and the generosity of the local community and state community has been fantastic.

"Recipients have been grateful and conscious of not taking too much - thinking about people worse off than

themselves."

The Oakbank depot is expected to be open from 10:30am to 12pm each day, or by appointment, for about another week. The Cape Jervis depot is open by appointment and producers interested in receiving donated fodder are asked to bring a property identification code and a valid ID.

## Angaston business drives KI hay drop

THE devastation caused by the Kangaroo Island fires has prompted Angaston's Amy Doecke to turn to her community to help those in need.

Ms Doecke has family on KI who have been affected by the recent fires, and after providing assistance with fire recovery efforts at Cudlee Creek and Eden Valley, was keen to help out again.

"Using contacts from our business we sourced two loads of feed straight away," she said.

Ms Doecke wanted to see if she could fill a third load by putting the call out on Facebook, and within 24 hours she had already filled a fifth semi-load.

Ms Doecke said many drought-stricken farmers who had received donations

in the past wanted to help those affected by fires.

The five trucks that will head to KI on January 14 include two trucks from Angaston Transport and one truck each from Shane and Carly Roocke, James and Cirsten Leditschke, and Darren and Julie Crouch.

The KI hay drop is being coordinated with Livestock SA and PIRSA to determine who needs the feed and where it will be delivered on KI.

"You always help your neighbours whether they are in KI or in Vic," she said.

"We have got room on the trucks so the extra donations (we have been receiving) are funding essential fencing and water supplies," she said.

— KIARA STACEY



**FEED ASSISTANCE:** Craig and Amy Doecke, Angaston Transport, have organised a hay run to KI to help livestock owners on the island affected by fires.

## SUPPORT AVAILABLE

### WHERE CAN I GET FIRE ASSISTANCE?

**Emergency grants:** Funds to cover immediate needs such as food, clothing and medicine to the value of \$280 per adult and up to \$700 for a family are available. Visit [dhs.sa.gov.au/services/disaster-recovery](http://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/disaster-recovery).

Communities may also be eligible for a one-off Federal Government Disaster Recovery payment of \$1000 per adult and \$400 for those under 16.

**Financial help:** South Australians affected by the bushfires can apply for grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items and repairs.

Small businesses affected can apply for a grant of up to \$10,000, while primary producers and farmers can apply for up to \$15,000. Visit [dhs.sa.gov.au/services/disaster-recovery](http://dhs.sa.gov.au/services/disaster-recovery).

**SACWA Emergency Aid Fund:** Provides up to \$3,000 for necessary expenses.

**Emotional support:** For urgent mental health support call the SA Health Emergency Triage and Liaison Service on 13 14 65 at any time, visit Regional Access for free professional counselling at [saregionalaccess.org.au](http://saregionalaccess.org.au) or phone Lifeline on 13 11 14.

**Livestock:** For assistance with livestock loss and assessments call the PIRSA Livestock Assessment Hotline on 1800 255 556. For assistance with fodder call Livestock SA on 0419 035 459.

**Insurance:** The Insurance Council of Australia has activated its disaster hotline - 1800 734 621.

### HOW CAN I HELP?

**State Emergency Relief Fund:** Commonwealth Bank of Australia, BSB 065 266, Account 1002 0160, description must state 'donation'.

**KI donations:** Monetary donations - Bank SA, BSB 105 094, Account 035 680 540, Mayoral Bushfire Fund. To donate goods contact KI Cartage at Edinburgh North on 08 8255 7447.

**Wildlife:** Donate first aid items to Adelaide Koala and Wildlife Hospital on 08 8297 2455.

**Fodder:** To donate fodder or agistment call Livestock SA on 0419 035 459.

**Volunteers:** Register with BlazeAid to assist in fencing repairs by calling Barbara Keynes on 0439 653 205 for Adelaide Hills Fires, or Greg Stevens on 0427 616 323 for the KI fires.

**Australian Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund:** Visit [fundraise.redcross.org.au/drr](http://fundraise.redcross.org.au/drr) to donate.

# Travel subsidy proposed

BY KIARA STACEY

THE state opposition is pushing for a 30 per cent subsidy on SeaLink ferry fares for the next six months to encourage tourists to visit fire-ravaged Kangaroo Island.

The proposal, which Labor says has received "overwhelming support", also includes free travel for those who have helped the firefighting and recovery efforts including volunteers and employees of Country Fire Service, State Emergency Service, National Parks, Metropolitan Fire Service, SA Water, SA Power Networks and Telstra. This would involve free return ferry trips for two people, two children and a car.

Opposition Leader Peter Malinauskas wants to get people back visiting the island as soon as possible.

"Tourism is a key industry on KI and there are still plenty of places to stay and visit that have not been impacted by the bushfires," Mr Malinauskas said. "Now is the time for all of us, as South Australians, to throw our support behind the Islanders

and their businesses."

While Labor's detailed proposal only referenced SeaLink, it says it also supports the subsidy being provided to other ferry operators, such as Kangaroo Island Connect.

Rather than commenting on specific measures or proposals, a state government spokesperson instead said the government was considering all options of how to "support KI in a logical and considered way".

When asked what he thought of Labor's temporary subsidy plan, KI mayor Michael Pengilly expressed disappointment that both Labor and Liberal governments had rejected proposals for more permanent ferry passage subsidies in the past, and accused the major parties of "playing politics" in the middle of a crisis.

"We are still in the middle of an active fire situation and this is a long way from over for us, so we have got time to sort the tourism rebuild plan out," Mr Pengilly said.

"SeaLink has been fantastic for KI and still continues to be, but the subsidy needs



**REBUILDING TOURISM:** SeaLink CEO Jeff Ellison says subsidised travel is the "fastest way" to rebuild KI's tourism market.

to be thought through carefully."

SeaLink has already offered up to \$2000 of free ferry travel per property affected by the fires, while the friends and families of those affected will be able to travel to KI for free in January to help with recovery efforts.

SeaLink chief executive officer Jeff Ellison estimates it will take six to 12 months to re-establish the full range of tours on the island and a further two years to rebuild infrastructure and buildings.

While a firm plan to rebuild KI's agricultural and tourism sectors has not yet

been formulated, Mr Ellison said subsidised travel was the "fastest way to rebuild the market".

As part of its effort to encourage tourism, KIC is providing a 50pc discount on return ferry travel for those who book accommodation on the island.

## FARMERS OFFERED \$75,000 GRANTS

UPTO 20,000 farmers hit by bushfires across the country have been offered grants of \$75,000 to help them recover.

The grants are similar to those given to flood-hit farmers in Qld last year.

Relief funds can be used to fix many types of farm infrastructure including fences, solar panels and also for paying vets or disposing of dead stock.

The eligibility rules are being finalised, but federal Agriculture Minister Bridget McKenzie promised they would not be onerous, in an effort to get relief money to farmers as quickly as possible.

The relief money is being paid out of the \$2 billion fire recovery fund announced recently by the federal government.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the category D assistance was made to get farmers back into production, and emphasised that the number of farmers to be offered grants was open-ended.

"I need to stress this is an uncapped program so if demand for support goes above \$100 million, money will continue to flow."

- JOHN ELLICOTT

# FREE SHARK ATV HELMET WITH ANY YAMAHA UTILITY VEHICLE





WORTH  
\$265

DESIGNED FOR AUSTRALIAN FARMERS TO HELP SAVE LIVES

- Unique maximum ventilation design
- Certified to ECE 22-05 & DOT full on road standards
- Low 1200g weight | Easy use buckle
- Easy hear ear pods | Composite fibre shell
- Sizes XS to XXL | Bluetooth ready
- Easy clean removable inner lining

"Helmets reduce the likelihood of an ATV head injury by 58 percent."

US Product Safety Commission





Our free helmet offer is available with Viking V/III, Wolverine X2/X4, Grizzly 700/350, Kodiak 700/450, AG200/125. Offer ends April 30, 2020 or while stocks last. Not all colours and sizes available.

Hit us and locate a Yamaha dealer at: [www.yamaha-motor.com.au](http://www.yamaha-motor.com.au)

## NEWS

# Huge camel cull call queried

BY VICTORIA NUGENT AND  
KIARA STACEY

THE culling of thousands of feral camels in SA's north, has been criticised by an interstate camel expert who believes it is a wasted opportunity to build a valuable niche industry.

The aerial cull, which began on January 8, will see up to 10,000 camels killed in the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands in the remote north-west of the state.

But Qld camel expert Paddy McHugh says such culls are an expensive way of managing the booming camel populations in inland Australia, and is adamant that taking a proactive approach would be better in the long run.

"In simple terms, it's beyond stupidity," he said.

"We're the laughing stock of the Middle East for what we're doing, they really value camels and we're just shooting them.

"Yes, Australia does have a real camel problem, but this doesn't fix it, they just breed up again and then they do another cull and waste more money."

According to SA's Department of Environment and Water, the APY executive requested assistance from Ten Deserts and the Alinytjara Wilurara Natural Resources Management Board to support the latest culls.

"For many years traditional owners in the west of the

APY Lands have mustered feral camels for sale, but this has been unable to manage the scale and number of camels that congregate in dry conditions," a department spokesperson said.

"An estimated 10,000 camels are flocking to available water sources, including tanks, taps and any available water in communities."

"This has resulted in significant damage to infrastructure, danger to families and communities, increased grazing pressure across the APY Lands and critical animal welfare issues as some camels die of thirst or trample each other to access water."

"In some cases dead animals have contaminated important water sources and cultural sites."

Mr McHugh has worked with camels for more than 40 years and as part of his career exports live camels to the Middle East for camel beauty contests and racing.

He said building a profitable camel meat industry would be a more sustainable way of controlling the camel population in the long-term than conducting culls.

"It's pouring money down the drain," he said.

"If there's a real future for camel exports in Australia, it's in the meat."

"We're in an arid land, why aren't we farming an arid animal?"

Mr McHugh suggested that two new camel micro-abattoirs be built at Kalgoorlie,



**DRASTIC MEASURE:** An aerial cull, which began on January 8, will target up to 10,000 camels in SA's Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara Lands.

WA, and Alice Springs, NT, to help grow Australia's camel meat industry further.

"The tyranny of distance is a big thing, so you have to build these systems close to where the camel populations are," he said.

"It'll take more than a few years to build the industry up, but we need to start."

"Some people say there's no market there but, it's as they say, if you build it, they will come."

Pirie Meats chief executive

officer Reg Smyth believes the situation must be dire for a camel cull to be put in place.

"When nothing has been done to develop an industry, then you have to react like this, but if there is a longer term plan, they can look at how they can manage this and take a whole different approach to it" Mr Smyth said.

Pirie Meats' multi-species abattoir is due to open at Warnertown this year, and

has been designed to allow for camel processing.

Mr Smyth thinks camels could present an "amazing opportunity" in the future, given they are suited to arid lands and remote areas.

But rather than relying on "ad hoc mustering", he believes a "far more structured approach" - including possibly farming camels - is the best way forward.

He also said mustering camels would yield an inconsistent product, with the

market preferring younger animals.

Mr Smyth said the issue with micro-abattoirs was how they were accredited for export.

"You're better off bringing (camels) down to larger facilities such as Pirie Meats in the future," he said.

Camel meat is highly valued in the Middle East and northern Africa, and within Australia could find an increasing customer base through halal butcher shops.



**DUST BOWL:** The state's average rainfall total was just 80mm in 2019, making it the first year on record that SA as a whole has averaged less than 100mm of rain.

## SA struggles through driest year on record

THE Bureau of Meteorology has confirmed that 2019 was the hottest and driest year across Australia as a whole since official records began.

In handing down its Annual Climate Statement, the BoM said Australia's average mean temperature in 2019 was 1.52 degrees Celsius above average, making it the warmest on record since consistent national temperature records began in 1910 and surpassing the previous record in 2013 of 1.33°C above average.

Meanwhile, the national average rainfall total in 2019 was 277 millimetres, the lowest since consistent national records began in 1900. The previous record low was 314mm set in 1902 during the Federation Drought.

In SA, 2019 was the driest and second-warmest year on

record for the state as a whole, with the mean temperature 1.45°C above average.

The state's average rainfall total was just 80mm, making it the first year on record that SA has averaged less than 100mm of rain, with the previous lowest being 111.4mm in 1944.

Many parts of outback SA had less than 30mm for the year, with Marree only receiving 12.6mm in the past 12 months.

Mean maximum temperatures in SA were above average for every month of the year, including the highest on record for January and December, third-highest October, fifth-highest July, and sixth-highest April and September.

The state as a whole had its hottest day on record on December 19, when it

reached 47.1°C, exceeding the previous record of 45.7°C on January 24, 2019.

Bureau of Meteorology head of climate monitoring Karl Braganza said 2019 was consistently warm, interspersed with periods of extreme heat.

He said the heat, combined with the marked rainfall deficiencies, had combined to exacerbate the impact of drought and fire.

Dr Braganza said climate change was playing a part, among other factors.

"Australia's climate has warmed by more than a degree since 1910, which means very warm years like 2019 are now more likely to occur, while the trend in recent decades has been for drier winter and spring seasons in the south," he said.

— GREGOR HEARD



**TEA BREAK:** Patrick and Riba Riordon, Riordon Farms, New Brunswick, Canada.



**PADDOCK FUN:** Bonnie Bergeron and Sheryl Schellen, Canada.

## Ayrshire breeders meet in SA

ABOUT 100 Ayrshire breeders from SA, interstate and across the world are taking part in the 2020 World Ayrshire Conference, which is being held in Australia for the first time.

The tour visited Geelong Ayrshires, Meadows, on Tuesday afternoon, with

stud owners Greg and Tracey Edmonds saying the day was "very successful".

The conference, held every four years, kicked off at the start of the week and will travel through SA and Vic before finishing up in NSW at the end of January.

Tour members will visit a

number of Ayrshire studs and attend International Dairy Week shows and seminars, as well as the World Ayrshire Federation Meeting, to be held in Shepparton, Vic.

*Stock Journal's* **CLAIRE HARRIS** and **KIARA STACEY** went along to the Geelong Ayrshires herd visit.



**TOUR MEMBERS:** Adam Billings, UK, and Jeff Henry, United States.



**OVERSEAS VISITORS:** Bruce Baggot, Anne Green and Claire McKay, Canterbury, New Zealand.



**DAIRY DAY:** Mike Creek, Palmyra Farm, Maryland, United States, and Andrew Gray, Long Gully Ayrshire stud, Echunga, at the Geelong Ayrshires herd visit in Meadows.

# A plan that will cover you

### ADVERTISER CONTENT

THIS year is not just a new year but a new decade, which makes it the perfect time to reflect on the past, look at the present and where you find yourself, as well as plan for the future and where you hope to be.

Have you taken the time to review 2019 and set goals on what you hope to achieve in the New Year?

We are entering the 20's but unlike the roaring 1920's, the 2020's are a time of fantastic connectivity and staying in touch.

There were plenty of inventions and technological change in the 1920's and even at that time, telephones had become relatively common fixtures. But the people of the 1920's would struggle to recognise today's technologically advanced phones and amazing network coverage.

Technology changes so fast and improves so rapidly that as a modern human, one needs to regularly reassess your current mobile plan and ensure it is still the right fit for you.

While you ask your-



self if you have outgrown your present plan why not check out the great value deals available from Telco Pennytel?

As part of your New Year review, it could be time to look into a new mobile phone plan to help you start

the year fresh.

Keeping in touch with loved-ones is especially important if you plan to travel around Australia over the holiday period.

While you take advantage of the warmer summer months, enjoying getting

back to nature whether that means visiting the coast or heading inland to check out the wildlife at one of many regional zoos, you'll want to stay connected.

Australia has some incredible scenic drives such as the Great Ocean Road in

Victoria, Sydney to the South Coast, Yorke Peninsula in South Australia plus many more, and these types of long haul trips call for reliable mobile coverage from a trusted provider.

You should be able to explore more of Australia with-

out worrying about network coverage and with Pennytel you can get 98.8 per cent coverage across Australia's populated areas.

In today's mobile market, there are increased competition with Telco's that resell mobile service from the three main providers, Telstra, Optus and Vodafone. So now you don't need to be tied to the main carriers and can have your choice of Telco.

Choose your Telco, find out which mobile network they resell and you'll likely find a saving on monthly cost. You can even jump on their website and check out the coverage in areas you want to go to. What a nifty tool!

Pennytel pride themselves on coverage, price, and of course their superior customer service. In terms of price, Pennytel offer plans starting from just \$10.99 per month for 1GB of data. Pair this with great coverage and exceptional customer service, it's value for money!

Call Pennytel on 1300 262 146 or go to Pennytel.com.au

■ This is advertiser content for Pennytel.com.au

## NEWS

# Grant eligibility criteria requires 'transparency'

BY ELIZABETH ANDERSON

ADELAIDE Hills farmers and business owners grappling with the clean-up following the Cudlee Creek fire have expressed concerns about difficulties accessing some of the available government assistance.

Earlier this week, Disaster Recovery Minister David Littleproud, alongside federal Member for Mayo Rebekha Sharkie and state Member for Kavel Dan Cregan, toured the fire ground, meeting with some of those affected.

Ms Sharkie said a common issue she heard from primary producers and small businesses throughout the day was the "unintended consequences of federal support and what that looks like when it gets transferred over to the state" to distribute.

A rebate of up to \$15,000 is available for primary producers to "reimburse reinstatement and clean-up costs" from the fire, but Ms Sharkie said some producers were being held up by restrictive criteria on this funding, which limits its applications, and became further complicated when insurance was involved.

"People need to be able to start the recovery - they can't move forward until they start the clean-up," she said.

Last week, the federal government also announced \$75,000 grants to assist primary producers with the costs of recovery and getting back to business, with the guidelines released yesterday morning.

Ms Sharkie said these guidelines needed to be applied as flexibly as possible to allow primary producers to strengthen their businesses



**REBUILD TIME:** Mount Torrens dairyfarmer Rick Gladigau (second from right) speaks with Disaster Recovery Minister David Littleproud and local MPs Dan Cregan and Rebekha Sharkie about the impact of the Cudlee Creek fire.

and recover.

She also had concerns about excessive red tape for those accessing support.

"The process should be as simple, uniformed and streamlined as possible," she said. "If you've been busy just trying to make sure the stock have food, a lot of people find the prospect of endless pages of paperwork (daunting)."

With the Adelaide Hills area in the "second phase of recovery", Mr Littleproud

said his government would be working with the state and local governments to make sure clean-up costs were shared and "more money goes to households".

He said it was important "no one falls through the cracks".

"We'll be holding to account our own selves, to make sure our payments get out but also saying to states we expect to see transparency in money getting out,"

he said. "Speed is important to getting to the rebuilding of these communities and these lives."

A representative from the SA government said the guidelines for all grants were "nationally consistent" and set by the Commonwealth.

"PIRSA will be administering the grants and a streamlined process has been established to ensure the grants are turned around quickly," they said.

"To assist applicants we are providing support in the Parndana and Lobethal Recovery Centres and applications can be made at our regional offices. A dedicated Bushfire Recovery Hotline has also been set up to assist with enquires."

■ Details: Bushfire Recovery Hotline 1800 255 556 or visit [pir.sa.gov.au/emergency\\_management/bushfires/2019\\_bushfire\\_information](http://pir.sa.gov.au/emergency_management/bushfires/2019_bushfire_information)

## Recovery process creates concerns

AN ADELAIDE Hills dairyfarmer said the "devil's in the detail" as he waited to see the guidelines for accessing support following the Cudlee Creek fire.

Rick Gladigau said about 50 per cent of his Mount Torrens farm had been affected by the fire, and while he did not lose any sheds, there was still a lot of clean-up involved.

He said the support for primary producers by the federal government was appreciated but the money needed to be easy to access.

"I heard of one farmer who went to a recovery centre, to see if he could get the money to tidy up his farm, and they basically said 'don't waste your breath'," he said.

Mr Gladigau was concerned tax invoices would be required to access \$15,000 in clean-up grants, which would not cover his own labour.

"That's just crazy, that I have to employ someone to tidy my farm up," he said.

He said funding, such as the \$75,000 grants, needed to be consistent across states but also flexible so farmers could apply it to their own systems.

"Farmers wanted to build resilience to cope with the next emergency, and not rely on others," he said.

The fire burned hay and dry feed on his property.

"It's thrown my summer drought strategy in the bin," he said.

"We are still milking.

"I had some hay donated, and that's really appreciated, as I had to shift the stock off the block I lease, because it's toasted, from one end to the other."

— ANDREW MILLER

# Udder Delights loses \$1.6m worth of cheese

ADELAIDE Hills cheese-maker Udder Delights has been forced to throw out \$1.6 million to \$2m worth of stock following the Cudlee Creek fire in December.

The fire came perilously close to Udder Delights' Lobethal factory, which was evacuated at 11am on December 20.

Udder Delights chief executive officer Sheree Sullivan was not on-site at the time, and was initially concerned that cheese would spoil while the factory was evacuated.

"I genuinely didn't think a fire was going to get that

close," she said.

Udder Delights maintenance manager Andrew Dunford stayed for two hours after the evacuation to prepare the site.

While there was no structural damage, Ms Sullivan said without Mr Dunford, the Metropolitan Fire Service, and water bombing efforts, the outcome would have been very different.

"It's going to take a few months to get back to being able to fulfil orders and getting our stockpiles back," Ms Sullivan said.

"I'd love to think that by



**BUILDING SAVED:** Udder Delights' Andrew Dunford and Saul Sullivan were relieved their factory was spared.

Easter we're on-track, but it might not be until the middle of the year until we are back

to the same position that we were before this happened."

The fire occurred less than

two months after Udder Delights faced a voluntary recall, with several products having to be discarded.

"The recall required a lot of effort, emotion and physical work to recover from and now we've done it twice," she said.

She said the fire had also impacted the milk solid levels in the milk delivered by local suppliers.

"It's taken 5 per cent to 10pc more milk than normal to get the same result - normally 1000 litres of milk makes 100 cheeses and instead 1000L of milk might

only make 97," she said.

"When the fires went through, fortunately our dairyfarmers' properties were all saved so milk supply volume is still good, but what we found when we got straight back to production was the cheeses made were all about 180 grams instead of 200g, and we hadn't changed anything. We found it was more the stress of the animals which really affected their solids, meaning that we need more milk to make the cheese, and that affects our profit margin."

— KIARA STACEY



**LendingPro**  
know loans  
like you know  
your business

Compare 70+ business  
equipment & vehicle lenders  
with one application

1

**2 minute online application**  
Compare 70+ lenders - apply  
anytime, anywhere

2

**Get in the know**  
Know your budget with an  
obligation free pre-approval

3

**Equip your business today**  
24 hour funding available

**Get your obligation free pre-approval today**

[lendingpro.com.au](http://lendingpro.com.au)  
1300 998 555

**lendingpro**

X2969273

## NEWS



**SLOW START:** Good Country Hemp managing director Mick Andersen says a late season in the SE has delayed the sowing of some hemp crops. **Photo: JAKE ANDERSEN.**

# Summer heat hinders early hemp growth

BY KIARA STACEY

COMMERCIAL hemp crops have been sown across the South East for the second season, with the most recent crop sown last week.

Good Country Hemp - which has processing facilities at Bordertown, and produces hemp oil - has contracted three SE farmers at Coonawarra, Nangwarry and Frances to grow hemp under centre pivot irrigation.

The company's managing director Mick Andersen said a very hot start to summer meant early-sown crops required more water than usual to get the plants growing.

"The reason we are sowing so late is that it has been a late season and we've had to get the oat crop off before planting the hemp, so the rotation was delayed, but

using this variety (Felina32) it should be OK," Mr Andersen said.

"The Felina32 variety is not as day length sensitive as the CFX2 variety, leaving a bigger calendar window for sowing, meaning it won't get as tall and will be easier to harvest."

While hemp can be sown after any crop - with the exception of canola, due to a "continuation of pests from canola to hemp", Mr Andersen said - following a legume crop is considered ideal.

A total of 19 hemp licenses - 17 for cultivation and two for processing - are currently granted in SA, an increase from the 10 cultivation licenses issued in 2018.

Certified hemp seeds are imported for sowing from either France or Canada each season, and farmers cannot

resow harvested seed due to licencing restrictions.

"We learnt from last year that crop yields are something that's difficult to determine but we're looking for over a tonne a hectare average this year," Mr Andersen said.

"We aim to use all of the season's seed within 12 months and then we resow and have fresh seed for the next 12 months.

"When we harvest, the seed comes off at 18 per cent moisture, so we need to dry it, which we have a dryer specifically for that at our Bordertown facility, then the seed gets cleaned at Tatiara Seeds, making it ready for processing.

"Harvest in late March will see the first stock of this season's crop on shelves the first week of June."

## Coronavirus spooks investors

NERVOUSNESS from investors across the globe about the threat of coronavirus has seen a general fall in agricultural commodity prices in the past week.

"Looking at the agricultural world, what we have seen is that if anything did not have a fundamental reason to push higher, they have dropped this week," Commonwealth Bank commodity analyst Tobin Gorey said.

There has been a classic exodus from investors to safe havens such as the United States dollar and gold, while commodities across the board have been marked-

ly weaker.

The coronavirus, which has killed more than 100 people, primarily centred on Wuhan, a city in the Chinese province of Hubei, has people worried it could develop into a fully-fledged pandemic.

Although at present it does not exhibit any more virulence than other viruses such as influenza, there is presently no vaccine against the disease.

The fear of the unknown has weighed heavily on markets.

"We continue to be in a period of high uncertainty," Mr Gorey said.

"Markets do not know how this situation will evolve and thus the flight to safety route has been chosen as the most prudent by many."

In terms of particular markets to be impacted, Mr Gorey said the coronavirus was impacting discretionary spending in China.

"It is keeping Chinese people out of public places, they are spending less, they are out less," he said.

Mr Gorey said the market was playing a waiting game to assess how far the disease spread and for how long it had an influence.

- GREGOR HEARD