

## **Minutes – General Meeting RGA Berriquin Branch**

Finley RSL – Thursday 6th of June

Meeting opened 5.00pm

### **Welcome**

Branch President Rob Massina welcomes all, with a special thanks to Laurie Arthur for his Sunrice ASX proposal briefing. Also thanked Tom Howard for his brief Grower Services update.

### **Apologies**

Apologies noted from Tom Howard, John Bradford, Warren lang, Graham Hendy, Mark Robertson, Emily Hehir, Jenny and Ray Hehir, Ainsley Massina

### **Minutes from previous meeting**

True and Correct

Moved – Nathan Hehir

Seconded – Emily Ford

No business arising from previous meeting.

### **Branch Presidents Report. Rob Massina**

Please See Presidents Report

### **Berriquin Branch Elections**

**President: Rob Massina**

**Nominations:** Rob Massina

**Vice President: Will Robertson**

**Nominations:** Will Robertson

**Secretary: Scott Jewell**

**Nominations:** Scott Jewell

**Central Executive delegates (3) : Rob Massina, Will Robertson, Scott Jewell**

**Central Executive alternates: Angela Urquhart, Emily Ford, David Bryce, Ted Hatty, Warren Lang, Garry Seamer, George Stevenson**

**Seed Committee delegate: D Knight**

**Seed Committee alternate: D Marsden**

## **RGA Report**

Jeremy Morton

Welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Berriquin Branch and introduced staff.

Gave a summary of the current political scene around the MDBA in particular the northern basin review and southern diversion limit.

Graeme Kruger

Thanked all the RGA staff for their support.

Discussed the current RGA constitution draft, and encouraged all growers to read and express their view to himself or Rob. He mentioned one major example of point of difference from normal board is that a typical board only as 5 members, with RGA currently having **22**.

Angela Urquhart asked the question if we could please get a copy of the track changes from the new constitution to the old one.

Outlined the RGA's 5 key policy's areas

Jeremy discussed the RGA's water policy on the 450GL 'up water' and mentioned again the position of RGA, which is that 'none is to be recovered from productive water'.

Discussed the efficiency program and some of the issues it has presented, mainly we people been able to buy water at market value and sell to the government for 2x the amount.

Also made mention that an issue in the water resource plan, is that it is 'Minster Call' in regard to who get the water flow in a tight season.

Grahame brought up the topic of the 'Rice Research and Development Levy Review'. He has discussed how the report was done. He made a note that Central Executive has recommended that we increase the levy from \$3 to \$6 a tonne. He noted that RGA will begin a 3 month consultation period with growers, with the postal votes to be sent out in September 2018.

Dennis Tinkler asked the question of why it is a \$/t increase and not a percentage increase.

Both Jeremy and Grahame explained that its just too hard and costly as it takes 18 months change, and also that RGA actually has to pay for it, which is why it has been set at a \$/t increase.

Grahame also gave a quick summary on the Rural Leadership course which was ran last week in Deniliquin, with good feedback coming in so far.

Jeremy discussed the current industry affairs issues, of which the main one is the Sunrice ASX proposal, and in summary said that RGA agrees with the proposal with the current information provided.

## Neil Bull

Stubble burning and plenty of complaints.

Native game bird and management kits available.

Spoke about the Bittens in rice project.

Discussed the upcoming Business and Technology forums.

## **Rice Industry Panel:**

### **RMB:**

Changes to the board, Victoria Taylor is elected to the board.

Robyn Clubb resigned as chair but still on board.

John Culleton elected as deputy chair in February.

Ian Mason replaced Noel Graham last year.

A brief summary of the independent governance review of the RMB was done, with some review results regarding no breaches of the conflict of interest principals, no possession of commercially sensitive info.

RMB has been provided with the ASX outline of the proposed ASX listing.

### **Rice R&D:**

First meeting of the new committee was very successful with a very dynamic panel.

Pleased to announce Michele Groat as the new Deputy Chair.

Not many projects were successful over the past R&D Advisory Panel Meeting due to funds being committed.

Budgets and forecasting was met with some caution due to dry conditions.

Sunrice long term forecast of \$400/t and 600,000 crop average helps guide us.

We welcome the levy review and aim for 1.5/t ml.

## **SunRice Grower Services: Anna Jewell**

### **C18 Review:**

#### **1. Harvest to date 622,000mt**

- a. Based on 5 year ave were expecting 595kmt
- b. Yields on the whole have been 4 – 5% higher than average

#### **2. Harvest delivery moistures were lower and more variable than normal:**

- a. The hot weather in March and at the beginning of April saw the earlier crop come in at lower moistures.
- b. The later crop saw moistures recover somewhat in late April and into May.
- 3. Wholegrain Yields have been variable:**
  - a. On the whole average WGY's are 4 – 5% lower than C17
  - b. On the whole, long grains performed better than Short grain (relative to C17) and Medium grains have lower WGY's
  - c. Once again this year WGY and individual appraisal results are based on the average by variety.
- 4. C18 saw the expansion of contracting options for growers:**
  - a. Fixed priced contracts for most varieties with pool options for the mainstream varieties.
  - b. C18 Pool range announced in May by the Board at \$355 - \$400/mt for Reziq
- 5. C18 saw the expansion of GrowRice and the introduction of PayRice:**
- 6. C17 Pool Guidance:**
  - a. The Board recently announced that they are confident that the C17 final pool result will end up above the upper end of the current range being \$355- \$365/mt

#### **C19 Outlook:**

- 1. A challenging outlook with the likelihood of lower water allocations and fierce competition from alternative crops:**
  - a. SunRice responding with \$400/mt forward pricing for Reziq in the market earlier.
  - b. Exploring ways to expand GrowRice.

#### **Murray Irrigation Update: Jorge Lunes**

Gave an update on PIIOP 3, funding of \$114.8m which will be mainly spent on Main Canal.

Gave a summary on inspection of the updates of the regulators.

Gave a summary on the canal upgrade, with a mention to ERTECH who is the contractor.

#### **Commonwealth Bank Presentation: Angas Swan**

Gave a summary of Global markets and the trend of world grain stocks.

Noted that stocks are tightening throughout the world, therefore pushing up prices.

#### **H20X Presentation: Craig Feuerherdt**

Gave a summary of climate drivers and storage levels.

Summary of water availability outlooks.

**Meeting closed at: 7.45pm**