INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Mr Joe Curran
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Capital Investment Rural is a Company owned by the Curran Family.

It is an aggregation of 7 farms about 5,500 acres in total. This is made up of approximately the following areas:

- 740 acres of river country
- 2,660 acres of arable country
- 1,760 acres grazing (non-arable) country
- 340 acres of Commercial Vineyard

On the property we grow grapes, lucerne, cereal crops (grazing/hay/grain), pastures for prime lambs and cattle.

Currently we have approximately the following water:

- 2,300ml River water Licences (Belubula River) 7 River pumps
- 1,400ml Bore Licences – 6 bores
- 3,700ml in total of water licences

We have a 550 megalitre off River storage dam located in the middle of the Vineyard.

The Company uses the water as per the following:

- 8 centre pivots that water about 450 acres
- About 340 acres of Vineyard on drip irrigation
- Supplies 9 houses

We currently employ 9 full-time staff members. During peak periods we hire extra casual employees and also use local contractors.
The Company has a combined annual turnover general of over $3 million. This is made up of annually of about:

- 2,000 tonnes of grapes
- 6,000 prime lambs
- 1,000 prime cattle
- 2,500 tonne lucerne
- 4,000 tonnes cereal hay

For the financial year of 2016/2017 we budgeted for a Farm profit of $750,000, but as a consequence of the floods our estimate is now looking at being a profit of about $250,000.

In 2016 the Belubula River flooded approximately 13 times. We lost approximately:

- 340 acres of Lucerne,
- 400 acres of crops.
- A huge deal of River grazing opportunities
- See Flood Photos

**Lucerne**
We average about 2,500 tonnes a year of lucerne hay production. For 2016/2017 we only produced 360 tonnes a reduction of about 2,140 tonnes on our average or about $640,000 of lost revenue.

**Cereal Hay**
We average 4,000 tonnes a year of cereal hay production. For 2016/2017 we only produced about 1,300 tonnes, a reduction of about 2,700 tonnes on our average or about $540,000 of lost revenue

**Winter Grazing**
Estimated loss of revenue of about $300,000.
Repairs

Once the floods had done their damage there was a huge clean up that needed to be completed. These were additional costs to the Company and are as follows:

- $4,000 Survey
- $18,000 Lazer bucket
- $7,500 Excavator
- $4,000 Fencing
- $10,000 for Stick picking, burning, re-cultivating and spraying
  $43,500

The lucerne drowned, we had the additional costs to spray and re-sow to a crop to clean the country up – 166ha, which has cost us about $20,000 to re-sow.

I cannot quantify the emotional stress that the floods have caused the revenue that has been lost in Lucerne and Cereal crops, they created a huge shortage of feed and we went very close to not being able to deliver on a Coles lamb contract. This has been a very taxing time.

BENEFITS OF NEW DAM

1) MORE RELIABLE SUPPLY OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION
2) FLOOD MITIGATION
3) INCREASE IN INTENSIVE IRRIGATION ENTERPRISES
4) INCREASES IN OTHER INDUSTRIES
5) OTHER NON AGRICULTURAL BENEFITS