

**Submission
No 111**

INQUIRY INTO WATER AUGMENTATION

Name: Mr Joe Curran

Date received: 18 May 2017



CAPITAL INVESTMENT RURAL

ABN 98 809 401 535

CANOWINDRA NSW 2804

17th May 2017

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.



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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.



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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