

RED CLIFFS GOLF CLUB INC.
Preliminary Report to Golf Victoria
following the floods in the Sunraysia district on 4th February 2011.

Prepared by:

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The following report was presented to an emergency meeting of the club's Committee of Management by our Course Management Committee and our Course Curator.

Report to Red Cliffs Golf Club Committee of Management
10th February 2011

1. Assessment of Flood Damage – Greens and Fairways

- 1.1 – Fairways flooded and still inundated include the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and half of 6th.
- 1.2 – Fairways partially flooded rendering the hole unplayable include 10th, 11th and 13th.
- 1.3 – Fairways partially flooded yet playable include 2nd, 7th, 12th, and 18th.
- 1.4 – 3rd green inundated despite attempts to dam and pump water off.
- 1.5 – 4th green surrounded by water and inaccessible
- 1.6 – Serious concerns regarding potential condition of these greens (3rd and 4th) when waters recede
- 1.7 - General scouring of paths car park etc.
- 1.8 - Soil washed onto entry roadway
- 1.9 – Irrigation system appears to be functioning at this stage (pump can be turned on) however, concern some decoders, earth rods etc, may become u/s due to prolonged submersion.

2. Assessment of Flood Damage – Turf Farm(s)

- 2.1 – Planting alongside 10th fairway had taken a month to dry out and had just been mown prior to the latest rainfall event.
- 2.2 - This area has been fully submerged since last Saturday
- 2.3 – Indications are that it will take at least another month to drain (if no more rain falls)
- 2.4 – There is a real possibility that replanting of this area will be required. If this eventuates, turf may not be available from here until next Spring.
- 2.5 – The 'cricket ground' planting is inundated and has been so for some time (refer 'pumping implications)
- 2.6 – Water on the 'Practice Fairway' plantings is receding. Hopefully staff will be able to get on this area to mow and spray within the next ten days.

Explanation for 2. above:

In 2004 the Red Cliffs Golf Club established its lawn turf enterprise in an attempt to improve the club's finances. As a small club with less than 300 members we were in danger of folding prior to the establishment of the lawn turf enterprise. Although this venture has had its ups & downs during the period of its operation, it has delivered the additional income the club needed to remain viable. It's important to recognize that the lawn turf enterprise was established through member contributions of \$1,000.00 each. All of the contributing members have been reimbursed and the enterprise is now totally controlled by the club. With the lawn turf enterprise now out of action for anything up to 12 months, the club will struggle to generate enough income to repair the damage to the course caused by the flooding.

Other:

Given that quite large areas of the course are still inundated, it's difficult to get an accurate assessment of the damage and hence the cost of the necessary repairs. Our major concerns at this early stage include the damage to several greens, which may necessitate either full or partial replacement work. Several fairways are significantly damaged and are likely to remain inundated for several weeks. As a result, it's likely that quite large areas of the fairways will have to be ripped up and totally renovated. Several tees have also suffered damage and these will also need to be replaced.

An unknown at this stage [as indicated in the report above] is the potential damage to our irrigation system. Although our course staff have advised that the pump is operational, we are concerned that there may be some widespread damage to the control infrastructure that operates the irrigation system. We will be in a position to investigate this issue in a couple of weeks as the flooding recedes.

Below is an aerial photo taken by the local newspaper group the day after the storm. Given that I've ordered a copy for the club's files, I have been given permission to include it in this preliminary report to Golf Victoria.

- The flooded 3rd, 4th & 5th holes can be seen lower left.
- The flooded 7th fairway can be seen top left.
- The flooded 10th & 11th fairways and turf farm can be seen centre & centre right.
- The almost unaffected back nine can be seen lower right. Unfortunately the flooding on the 10th & 11th holes has effectively rendered this section of the course unusable.



Conclusion:

As a result of a lot of hard work by our course staff and club member volunteers we have been able to open parts of the course in an attempt to get some golf activity going. As of Wednesday 16th February we have 14 holes open, although temporary tees will be used on 3 of these holes. By playing 3 holes twice we will be able to have un-handicapped 17 hole club competitions. We envisage that the 3rd, 4th & 5th holes will be out of action for some months. Our main aim in getting some golf going is to generate some much needed income for the club.