

Report Re; Meeting with Small Business – Victoria Monday 21st February

Andrew Wood and Simon Newey in attendance.

We were invited to describe the effects of the flooding upon the Red Cliffs Golf Club.

This was done so under three basic terms of reference:

1. **Restrictions on the ability of the club to operate** under normal circumstances, which has had a significant negative impact upon our regular income.
2. **Damage to infrastructure** such as greens and fairways evident. Possible damage to irrigation components such as decoders and solenoid valves not yet fully assessable and won't be until the water subsides.
3. **Turf farm under water** has resulted in the loss of around \$80,000 worth of turf and potential sales income.

This information was recorded and a request for photos to be forwarded was made.

Michelle explained that we would have to make a formal application for financial assistance which is capped at \$25,000 per claimant. She explained that the applications when received are sorted into three categories, will be funded, might be funded and won't be funded. She emphasized it was imperative that applications are fully explained ("assume the reader is ignorant of all matters relating to the claim") and supported with full documentation and detailed costing of expenditure and evidence of damage/impact upon the club. We need to make sure we get past the first 'sorting stage'.

We were advised that our application should include

- How the floods impact upon the continued viability of the club
- Information upon the number of club employees reliant on income from the club
- Spin off effect on local businesses/suppliers who deal with the club
- Role of volunteers within our club
- School usage/junior programs
- Assistance in fund raising ie; mental health day/ variety club / cancer appeals.
- Role of club as a community facility ie; our members, sewing group, venue for social event etc
- Significance of the turf farm in regard to the future of the club

She also suggested that we consider the irrigation infrastructure as a write off and proceed accordingly. As such, Simon has had a representative of *Water Dynamics* out today who has also been in contact with *Toro* regarding irrigation equipment supplied by that company and its ability to survive extended immersion .

Jason Marks of GBM has been contacted re costing of fairway renovations.

She agreed that inviting the local member, Mr Crisp, to visit in order to broaden his appreciation of the issues currently faced by the club, would be a very good idea.

Mal Goodeison, who has regular contact with Mr Crisp has today contacted his office and has arrangements in place for a visit at the earliest possible opportunity.

Supporting photographs should also be included with the official application form.

The interviewer who reports to the State Government, was extremely supportive and thought we had a strong case for assistance. She was impressed with the initiative shown in establishing the turf enterprise and the role of volunteers within the club structure. She was also advised that the turf farm flooding had been exacerbated by water being directed onto our property from adjacent premises. She responded that she had already heard of many other such instances.

She also pointed out that there are many claims for assistance already being processed and that Charlton was receiving priority at this stage. Apparently additional funding has been allocated to Charlton following the full impact of the flooding becoming apparent. She was hopeful that additional funding may also become available in Sunraysia.