

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022

Dear Grower

## HARVEST RECEIVAL ARRANGEMENTS

AGS are in the process of finalising harvest planning for C22. At this stage there will be only minimal changes to the varietal receival plan outlined during seed issue, however with several major issues affecting labour availability and supply chains there are likely to be some changes required during harvest. As a result we will be asking both employees and growers to be flexible so we can safely receive and dry the paddy in AGS storages.

### KEY MESSAGES

- Depot operations are likely to be impacted by Covid at some point in time during harvest.
- Redirection payment will be offered in certain areas to address capacity and other potential issues that may arise.
  - o Yenda and Benerembah growers please read further details below regarding the need to deliver a percentage of your harvest to the Walsh / Emery depots
- AGS staff will be required to manage employee fatigue. It is important growers work with staff to maximise the use of rain events and empty trucks immediately after rain.
- Harvest moisture will be set at a 22% standard and revised upwards where possible. Please complete moisture tests before harvesting and discuss options with your depot supervisor.
- Caldwell will open for a limited time only during peak periods
- AGS staff will keep growers informed using the harvest page. Please bookmark the page on your smart phone. <http://harvestinformation.sunrice.com.au/>

### COVID 19

The AGS team are committed to working within SunRice / NSW government guidelines. We will take all possible precautions to minimise exposure risk and harvest interruptions.

#### *Standard Precautions*

- PPE will be provided for AGS staff
- Growers will be required to remain outside all buildings and comply with site procedures at the time, which may involve wearing of masks.
- Processes will be contact free where possible
- Any employee / grower who is covid positive will be unable to attend site.
- Plans will vary to suit NSW government / SunRice requirements

#### *Emergency Precautions*

- In the event that adequate staff are not available to safely operate an individual storage / depot the following may be put in place pending circumstances:
  - o AGS will attempt to source more casual staff
  - o Some individual storages may be closed for a period of time
  - o A depot may be closed (where adequate supervision is not available, and all other avenues have been exhausted)
- Regular updates will be provided via the AGS Harvest page (<http://harvestinformation.sunrice.com.au/>), text messaging and notice boards.

### Labour shortages and Fatigue Management

Unfortunately AGS is not immune to the labour shortages affecting the agricultural, transport and manufacturing industries. As a result at most sites there will be only a single permanent staff member supervising a team of casuals at each site. There is every likelihood that we will be able to crew all storages at each site (subject to supervisory and casual staff not being impacted by Covid). In the event of positive covid cases on each site a partial or total site closure may occur.

In the event a site is closed or congested due to partial closures, growers may choose to travel to alternate depots at their own cost, or move to an alternate site which has been approved for redirection payment.

### *Fatigue Management*

As always, AGS staff are required to work within SunRice group fatigue management guidelines which are based on recommendations from SafeWork Australia. We aim to complete harvest as quickly as possible whilst taking into consideration the safety and wellbeing of our people. As such, there may be closure days applied across the business in mitigation of potential fatigue of our workers. We will advise growers of any potential closure days in advance and ideally take advantage of rain events and 1-2 days during the Easter period.

We do ask that all growers make every attempt to move trucks out of paddocks when rain is forecasted and deliver to AGS storages immediately after a rain event to allow the staff to match rain events with any potential closure days where possible, minimising disruption. Note that, failure to do so may impact other growers and could result in additional closure days being required during good harvesting weather. In some cases where the majority of farms (but not all) are impacted by a rain event a decision may be made to close a depot and in turn this may impact a small group of growers.

In the event that minimal tonnages are being received at a depot a closure may also occur. At these time an alternate depot will be available.

In all of the cases above redirection payment will not be available unless it is for an approved route.

### **Harvest Planning**

The harvest receival plan as outlined in the Seed Circular is included below. Areas highlighted in green are additions to the original plan aimed at improving grower service or meeting market requirements.

#### **Receival Plan**

Depot	Sherpa	Reiziq	Viand	V071	Doongara	Topaz	Langi	Illabong	Koshi	Opus
Gogeldrie		P	P	P	P	P	P			
Murrami		P	P	P						
Whitton		P&S	P&S	P&S		S	S			
Benerembah		P	P	P						
Willbriggie		P	P	P						
Yenda		P	P	P						
Hay	Closed									
Walsh		P	P	P						
Emery		P	P	P		P	P			
Hogan	Closed									
Finley	P	P	P	P						
Blighty	Closed									
Deniliquin	P&S	P&S	P&S	P&S					P	P&S
Caldwell		P	P	P	Open for limited peak period only					
Burraboi	P	P	P	P					S	
Moulamein	P	P	P	P						

Addition to plan for grower service / marketing requirements

### **Storage Capacity**

Harvest receivals will exceed capacity at a number of AGS depots including Burraboi, Benerembah, Yenda and Moulamein. At MIA depots further capacity issues may arise as a result of timing between milling of CY21 paddy and harvest receival of CY22 paddy. With changing market conditions, limited transport availability and aeration requirements it is necessary to hold some paddy within aerated storages in the MIA region for quality and access reasons. The timing of when this will be outloaded is dependent on variable production plans at SunRice mills.

Due to labour and transport limitations the option to fast dry, out turn, and receive paddy into external storage is not considered a viable option at this stage. As a result redirection payment has been approved for certain routes.

### **Approved Redirection Payment Routes**

The efficient operation of each depot relies heavily on growers and AGS staff working together. With improvements in transport it is common for growers to move to other depots when suitable. In many cases this can assist in balancing queues, or alternatively it can negate movements that AGS have arranged to free up capacity for other growers. Please consider fellow growers when deciding where to deliver your paddy.

Redirection payment aims to maximise harvest turnaround and efficiency. In some cases only nominated growers have been approved based on volume and truck type in order to manage movements and reduce congestion at both sites.

Growers will be notified of any changes to redirection payment as they occur.

### **Approved Southern Routes**

- All Opus paddy to Deniliquin. All growers are eligible.
- Burraboi Sherpa to Deniliquin. Nominated growers only.
- Moulamein Medium grain to Deniliquin. Nominated growers only.

Caldwell depot will open for the peak period only to a maximum of 12,000t. As the depot opening is an addition to the Seed Circular any growers delivering before and after this period will be required to deliver to Deniliquin at their own expense.

There is no approved redirection for growers from the Hay region. They may choose to deliver to either Deniliquin or Walsh / Emery.

### **Approved Northern Routes**

- All Benerembah, Yenda and Willbriggie growers may deliver to Walsh / Emery Depots. Reiziq, V071, Viand only. All growers are eligible
- All Gogeldrie, Whitton and Murrami growers may deliver to Walsh / Emery Depots in the event their local depot is full or closed for a specific period. Reiziq, V071 and Viand only. All growers are eligible.
- All Doongara paddy to Gogeldrie depot. All growers are eligible.

If Benerembah, Yenda and other MIA growers deliver their medium grain to alternative depots in the MIA you will **NOT** be eligible for redirection payment.

At least 20% of Benerembah and 33% of Yenda will need to be moved to an alternative depot. Some capacity will be available for paddy at Whitton (not suitable for road trains) however no additional capacity exists at Murrami, Gogeldrie or Willbriggie at this stage. In order to ensure growers have equal access to deliver some paddy to their local depot we encourage all Benerembah and Yenda growers to attempt to deliver at least 1 in 5 loads from Benerembah to Walsh/Emery and 1 in 3 from Yenda. Any growers who are able to deliver more will be greatly appreciated. We will be tracking deliveries and keeping growers updated during the harvest period.

Walsh depot is located 10km North of Coleambally and Emery is located 18km South of Coleambally on the Kidman way. Both have road train access.

As depots fill (including Walsh and Emery) all remaining Northern growers will be required to transport to other depots where capacity exists at their own expense.

### **Redirection payment rates**

Redirection payment is generally only available when a depot nominated as 'open' in the Seed Circular has been closed. It may also be offered in targeted areas to address the capacity issues at some depots. It is a tool used to compensate growers for 'additional' costs when traveling to an alternative depot. The use of redirection payment is at AGS discretion and may cease at any time during harvest as grower delivery patterns and crop yields become known.

The rate for redirection payment for 2022 is as follows.

Flagfall (first 10km)	= \$8.08 per tonne
Additional km's	= \$0.11 per tonne per km

The Redirection payment rate is based on total km travelled minus the distance from farm gate to your nearest depot. As an example, if you are 10km from your closest depot and you are traveling to another depot located 70km from your farm the calculation would be as follows:

Qualifying distance (70-10km)	= 60km
Flagfall (payment for first 10km)	= \$8.08 per tonne
Additional kms (\$0.11 per tonne x 60km)	= \$6.60 per tonne
<u>Total redirection payment</u>	<u>= \$14.68 per tonne</u>

**Quality Appraisals - PaddyVision**

As noted in the Seed Circular CY22 will see the second year of trialling the PaddyVision™ instrument at the testing stands. The PaddyVision™ detects the amount of cracks and other characteristics in paddy without dehulling the grain. Along with the standard tests conducted at the testing stand, each truck load will be assessed by PaddyVision™. The data obtained will be collated and reviewed by SunRice to determine if in the future the PaddyVision™ can be used to determine grain quality for both milling and grower appraisals at the time of receipt.

During CY22 the results from the PaddyVision™ will provide growers with a Quality Score which will be included on the CHIT and Grower docket for each load. The Quality score will be based on % cracks which has a direct correlation to Whole Grain Yield. In future additional quality characteristics will be weighted (based on importance to overall milling quality) and form part of the quality score.

For CY22, grower appraisals will continue to be determined in accordance with the 2021/22 Paddy Quality Specifications & Discounts document with results obtained from the Quality Appraisal Centre.

The entire team at AGS and SunRice Grower Services wishes you a very smooth and efficient harvest. If there is anything that we can help with at any stage during the harvest period, please do not hesitate to contact your local AGS depot or SunRice Grower Services on 1800 654 557

Regards,



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