



MEDIA RELEASE

19 April 2017

Growers asked to burn responsibly

With the 2017 summer harvest underway, the rice industry, Griffith City Council, Leeton Shire Council, the Irrigation Research and Extension Committee, Murrumbidgee and Coleambally Irrigation companies and the Griffith Rural Fire Service remind farmers who are planning to burn stubble, to do so responsibly.

Rice Industry Extension Coordinator Gae Plunkett said it was important to take all possible steps to minimise the adverse effects of smoke on neighbours and neighbouring townships. Every incident that negatively affects local communities puts your right to burn at risk.

“Growers are preparing for the planting of winter crops and many will be burning stubble. We ask them to be strategic in their burning practice to reduce the adverse effects of stubble smoke on those living nearby.”

Growers are asked to be mindful of the impacts that smoke can have on nearby communities and only burn when conditions are appropriate.

“All farmers need to consider the wellbeing of everyone in their regional communities when burning stubble.” Stubble burning has been linked to difficulty in breathing and asthma and in severe inversions can result in hospitalisation.

Mrs Plunkett said that improved understanding of how local wind and air conditions disperse smoke will lead to responsible decisions when burning.

“Growers should plan their burning strategy to avoid inappropriate conditions. Monitor prevailing weather conditions and avoid burning late in the day or when there is no wind, as this is when inversion layers are most likely to be present.”

“The Bureau of Meteorology website has a mixing height tool to help growers plan stubble burns. Click on the MetEye link to use the tool to get a forecast for burning conditions and wind speed and direction over the next few days at your location.”

“For more information about this tool and alternatives to burning growers should refer to the Responsible Stubble Management fact sheet on the RGA website.”

Supporting Organisations are:



Ends

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A member of National Farmers' Federation, National Irrigators' Council and NSW Irrigators' Council