



26 July 2019

Our irrigation journey: further
increasing productivity in an
irrigated system.

Richard Burbury
PS BURBURY & SON
RH & GH BURBURY

OUR IRRIGATION JOURNEY

THE PAST

1400ha dryland at Woodbury.
2500 head self-replacing ewe flock.
Some dryland poppies.
Also operated 1100ha at York Plains, running similar enterprise mix.



THE PRESENT

4000ha spread between Woodbury and Campbell Town.
9500 head self-replacing ewe flock.
Irrigated cropping focusing on poppies and grass seed.
Poppies were 50% of turnover for 2012/13, now 12%.
650ha irrigation under 10 pivots and one linear.

WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?



BLACKMAN RIVER DAM



FINALLY IRRIGATING



LINEAR 2012



PIVOTS



INTEGRATING IRRIGATION AND PRIME LAMBS

Key factors

1: DRY MATTER PRODUCTION

Simple: 1ML irrigation water = 3t DM brassica
 1ML irrigation water = 1t DM grass

2: RISK

“The biggest risk to our business is now not capitalising on a good season, as against managing a bad season.”

Plan, implement, execute.

TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

1. Don't irrigate ryegrass through the summer.
2. Poppies only one year in four.
3. Brassicas are best
4. Focus on margin per day first.
5. Refine rotation.



TYING IT ALL TOGETHER

- Poppies harvested 15 January 2018.
- Sown to leafy turnip 16 January 2018. Grazed for 80 days at 35 lambs per hectare until 20 May.
- Hybrid canola seed sown 28 May, harvested 5 January 2019.
- Now grass seed crop.

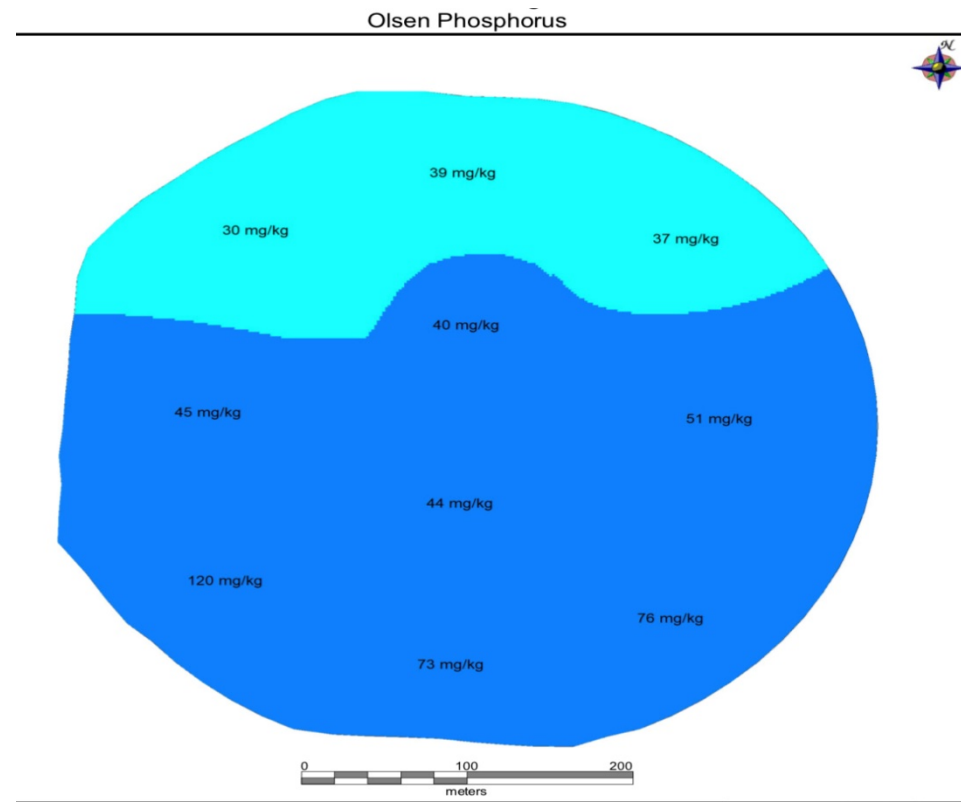
Gross margin July 2017 – April 2019 >\$6000/ha

LOOKING FORWARD

1. More pivots.
2. Underground power.
3. Automation.
4. EID ewe lambs.
5. Refine rotation.
6. Soil mapping.



LOOKING FORWARD



Client: Bunbury, Richard
Farm: PS Bunbury
Paddock: 3rd from Shearing Shed
Name: 3rd from Shearing Shed - So
Date: 4/4/2019
Min: 30 mg/kg
Max: 120 mg/kg
Avg: 56 mg/kg

40 - 120 mg/kg	14.06 ha
30 - 39 mg/kg	5.49 ha
20 - 29 mg/kg	0.00 ha
10 - 19 mg/kg	0.00 ha
Below 10 mg/kg	0.00 ha



LOOKING FORWARD / LOOKING BACK

Just add water



Top three take-home messages

1. Upskill yourself where possible.
2. Think outside the box if looking to grow your business.
3. Focus on margin per day under irrigators.



Tools, resources and training

- Pasture Principles
- Life after lifetime ewe management (LTEM)
- Wunderlist
- Agriwebb
- Fieldnet / Reincloud
- Whats App
- www.bom.gov.au



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