

OFFICIAL INDUSTRY MAGAZINE • ISSUE 43 • SUMMER 2024 - 2025

Fire Ants

...an uphill battle

IN THIS ISSUE:



*Update on the National Water Agreement
Getting a grip on Load Restraint
A new chapter for Westland Turf*

From the Chair

BEC SELICK LAWYER DOCTOR CHAIR & SECRETARY TURF AUSTRALIA



The past year has brought challenges and opportunities for our industry. The circumstances surrounding our sector have been influenced by several key factors, including declining housing commencements, economic uncertainty, and increasing production costs. These elements have contributed to heightened competition, particularly from synthetic turf, which poses a significant challenge in both the commercial and residential markets.

According to the recent IBIS report, turf sales are intricately linked to housing commencements, consumer sentiment, and fluctuations in rainfall. The combination of these dynamics has led to noticeable revenue declines across our industry. However, amidst these challenges, there is a silver lining.

A positive trend we have observed is the increase in government spending on sporting fields and public grounds since the pandemic. This investment is crucial for our sector, and it offers a foundation for future growth. Additionally, discretionary incomes and consumer sentiment are projected to rise over the next five years, with revenue in our industry expected to increase at an annualized rate of 1.1% through to 2029-2030.

A positive trend we have observed is the increase in government spending on sporting fields and public grounds since the pandemic. This investment is crucial for our sector, and it offers a foundation for future growth.

The 2024 IBIS Report highlights that farms leveraging experienced workforces and employing the latest technologies and techniques will likely experience the strongest revenue growth. This insight underscores the importance of innovation and adaptability within our industry.

At Turf Australia, we remain committed to supporting farmers in achieving revenue growth. We will continue to promote and educate on strong sustainability principles, emphasizing the environmental benefits of natural turf. This advocacy is particularly vital as we strive to maintain our market share against synthetic turf in the sports ground sector.

Moreover, we are dedicated to ensuring the long-term viability of our industry through our leadership programs, including the expansion of the Next Gen experience. These initiatives are designed to nurture the next generation of leaders within our sector.

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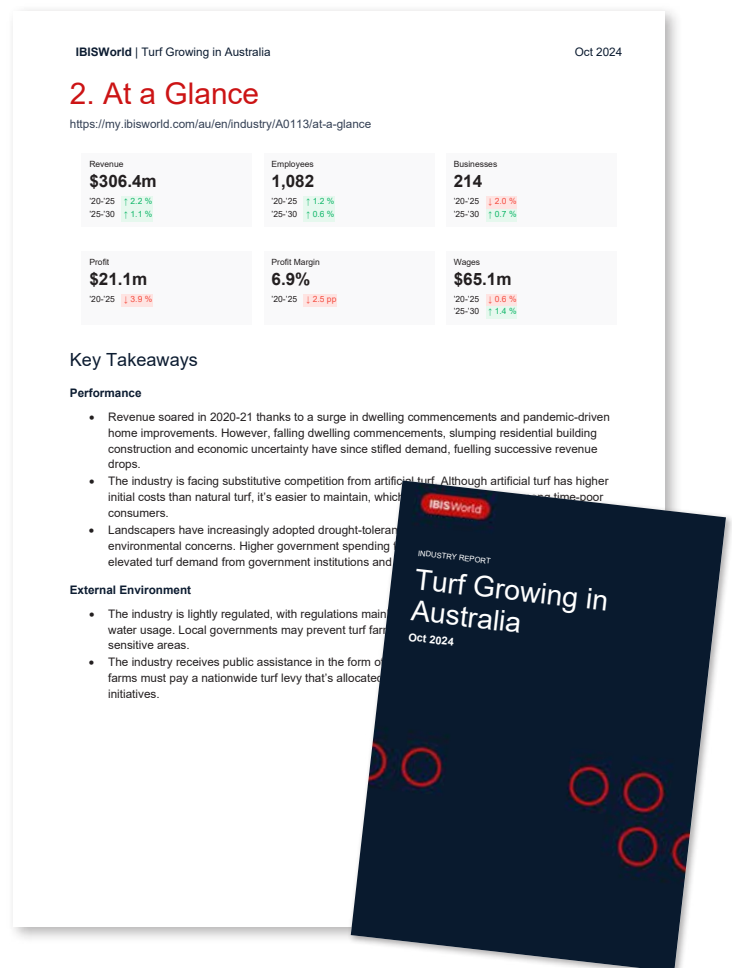
I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the remarkable team we have built at Turf Australia. Our CEO, Eva Ricci, our Communications Coordinator, Yolande (Landè) Lundie, and our Admin Officer, Bec Clayton, have all excelled in meeting the diverse deliverables of our organisation. Their dedication and hard work are truly commendable.

I also extend my heartfelt thanks to our Board members, who generously contribute their time and expertise on a voluntary basis.

Your commitment to our mission is invaluable, and I encourage others to consider joining us in this rewarding endeavor.

Furthermore, I would like to acknowledge the support of the Turf team at Hort Innovations. Their contributions to various initiatives have enabled Turf Australia to gain significant momentum in our efforts to support this wonderful industry.

I am enthusiastic about the achievements that lie ahead for both our farms and Turf Australia in the coming year.



For those interested in a deeper understanding of our industry's landscape, Turf Australia has purchased the full IBIS Report for 2024, which will be available for our members in the members-only portal on our new website.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication.

Warm regards,

Bec Sellick
 Chair & Secretary, Turf Australia

Follow us on Facebook! Keep up to date with what's happening in the industry and at Turf Australia.





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Wherever you see this logo, the initiative is part of the Hort Innovation Turf Fund. Like this publication itself, it has been funded by Hort Innovation using the Turf levy and, in the case of R&D, with contributions from the Australian Government. Some projects also involve funding from additional sources.

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Cover image: Fire Ant nest in Queensland (photo courtesy of Australian Lawn Concepts).

TIDE Project Update

About The Turf Industry Development & Extension Project (TIDE)

The **TIDE Project** is jointly funded by Hort Innovation/ Project Operations, and state/regional funding. Project Operations funding covers national activities, workshops, research and development, tools and extension with a 70% grower focus, while state/ regional funding covers these elements for states and regions with a 30% end user focus.

The TIDE Project exists to ensure turf production businesses are equipped with resources and tools to improve their business sustainability, productivity, profitability and resilience.

The project includes on-farm development and extension to strengthen the industry as a whole and reflects outcomes of the *TIDE Plan and Needs Analysis Study* undertaken by Turf Australia in October 2021. The study was developed to identify grower views and expectations. Five key objectives were established to address the findings of the study, and to form the basis of deliverables under the TIDE Project. These objectives include:

Industry Development and Extension Program Strategy

This objective is strategic and nationally coordinated. It encompasses collaboration with turf industry service providers and industry organisations including state and regional associations.

Knowledge Sharing

Between current and past Hort Innovation Turf Industry research and development providers. It includes the Hort Innovations Frontiers Green Cities Fund and is driven by national and international research and development.

On Farm and End User Program

This objective delivers industry development and extension activities spread over two years. The aim is to increase capacity to create grower practice change.

Measurement and Review

Including a mid-term review (after two years) focused on a national grower survey, aimed at approximately 220 Australian turf businesses; reporting grower and end-user project benefits — in knowledge, attitude, skills and aspirations — and the implementation of changes in practice aligned to *Turf Strategic Investment Plan 2022-26* (TSIP) (measured outcomes); and making recommendations for the final two years under the TSIP.

Project Milestones and Completion

Completion of project management and project milestone templates including a program logic and monitoring evaluation plan; a project delivery risk register; Project Reference Group (PRG) meetings twice a year; the preparation of six-monthly milestone status reports and a final report upon project wrap up in May 2025.

For more information about the TIDE Project, please visit the Turf Australia website or contact Eva Ricci at eva.ricci@turfaustralia.com.au.

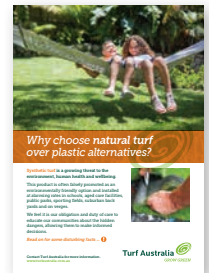
Deliverables...

1. Drought Toolkit

The drought toolkit is well under way and will be completed by the due date of Dec 2024. A draft document has been completed, and a review is currently being undertaken. The aim is to have an E-Book ready for distribution before the end of December 2024. This will go out to all levy payers electronically, for printing at their end, and has been designed to be shared electronically with customers at point of sale.

2. Synthetic Turf Brochure

Since the release of the Synthetic Turf Brochure mid-year, we have now decided that the best manner in which to distribute this important information, is by sharing it with all Federal, State and Local Government politicians, CEO's for Local Government Authorities, and Allied Industry CEO's (to share with their members).



A covering letter will be attached to the brochure, highlighting the environmental concerns of synthetic turf. We will thank these politicians for taking the time to assess the brochure and referring them to the new Turf Australia website. The new Turf Australia website hosts a dedicated Natural vs Synthetic turf section, featuring a resources library and video gallery for industry reference. We are hopeful that community activist groups, allied industries, other end users and the Turf Production sector will utilise these resources.

The aim is to highlight the environmental impacts of plastic grass on our sunburnt country. Especially the profound impact it has on the heat island effect, our waterways, biodiversity, human biology, children and pets.

3. TIDE Video

The Bushfire Video was stalled due to the ill health of the videographer. Thankfully good health has now returned, and the video will be completed as soon as possible. The final, polishing touches should be happening as I type. This video will focus on the real-life impact of bushfire as a personal experience. The loss of a home to fire, and how things could have been so different had the greenspaces around the home not been left to die off in the heat of summer.

We hope to have this ready in the New Year too.

4. IDO Meeting & Requirements

A State Association/ Turf Australia meeting was held in October to finalise the TIDE Project requirements. State funding ceases as at the end of this year. The TIDE Project currently officially ends on 1 November 2025.

I would personally like to thank our Turf Australia team, Landè and Bec, for their committed and capable support in working together on all projects for the Turf Australia levy payers and members.

We have a terrific team, for which I am eternally grateful. ☺

Eva Ricci
Executive Officer



Urgent Action Required: Discontinue use of Chlorthal Dimethyl products IMMEDIATELY

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) would like to draw your attention to the immediate cancellation of the registration and use of all products containing chlorthal dimethyl, also known as Dacthal or DCPA. Chlorthal dimethyl is a herbicide used in vegetable crops, turf and cotton.

This is an immediate cancellation of the 12 products in Australia containing chlorthal dimethyl, no phase out period applies. Farmers and retailers may continue to hold products until further notice but must not use or supply it. The use or supply of chlorthal dimethyl as an agricultural chemical product is now illegal.

The products cancelled are:

Product Name	Registration number
Nufarm Chlorthal-Dimethyl 900 Herbicide	59137
Imtrade Pterodactyl 900 WG Pre-Emergence Herbicide	65212
KDPC Prethal 750WG Herbicide	67445
Novaguard Chlorthal 750 WG Herbicide	68349
Ezycrop Chlorthal 750 WG Herbicide	69085
Farmalinx Dynamo 750 Herbicide	69626
AC Discord 750 WG Herbicide	69680
MacPhersons Chlorthal 900 WG Herbicide	81334
Lawthal 750WG Herbicide	83116
Hemani Chlorthal 750 WG Herbicide	85327
Titan Chlorthal 900 WG Pre-Emergence Herbicide	88705
Dacthal 900 WG Pre-Emergence Herbicide	93154

The APVMA will commence a recall process for the products shortly.

Reasons for the cancellation

The APVMA's assessment found there is a risk to human health due to direct exposure:

- during mixing
- loading and applying the chemical
- from residue remaining on treated crops and turf for up to 5 days following application.

The primary risk is to unborn babies via maternal exposure. Effects may include low birth weight, impaired brain development, decreased IQ, and impaired motor skills later in life. Pregnant workers who may have concerns about exposure are advised to consult with their physician. There are no practical mitigation measures that can be put into place to allow the continued use of the products.

This is an immediate cancellation of the 12 products in Australia containing chlorthal dimethyl, no phase out period applies. Farmers and retailers may continue to hold products until further notice but must not use or supply it. The use or supply of chlorthal dimethyl as an agricultural chemical product is now illegal.

The APVMA has the power to cancel the registration of a chemical product, without public consultation, if doing so is necessary to prevent imminent risk to persons of serious injury or serious illness.

Details are published in the APVMA Special Gazette, Thursday 10 October 2024.

The APVMA will also be undertaking a public awareness campaign regarding the cancellation.

If you have any questions, please contact the chemical review team by phone (02) 6770 2400 or email chemicalreview@apvma.gov.au.

Editor's Note: At the time of publication, no further instruction has been communicated with industry regarding collection points for recalled chemicals or an outline of next steps. Turf Australia reached out to the Chemical Review Department of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, requesting further instruction for growers in possession of recalled chemicals. We were advised that notices are being prepared and will be shared soon. We will provide an update as soon as we receive further information.



National Farmers Federation Update

Compliance burden and chemical access and use

Compliance burden

The Council has recently elevated addressing the increasing compliance burden on growers as an area of policy priority and has established a taskforce focused on identifying key pain points for growers and delivering practical solutions to reduce costs and complexity. This is in response to overwhelming advice directly from growers that the burden has become unmanageable and is a major factor informing decisions to leave the industry.

Chemical access and use

The Council has also recently established a new taskforce to address threats posed to the industry by loss of access to safe, effective and affordable farm chemistry. As a priority the taskforce will engage with options and policy to address market failure, the performance of the APVMA, and regulatory reform. The taskforce is comprised a range of experienced staff from across the Council membership who each bring a deep appreciation of the pain points for growers when it comes to chemistry.

Richard Shannon
Executive Officer, NFF

TURF FUND HIGHLIGHTS 23/24

**Hort
Innovation**

I'm pleased to share highlights from the Turf Fund in 2023/24 with you. This past financial year, we invested more than \$486,000 through the Turf Fund, with advice and participation from the industry to achieve meaningful outcomes for the turf sector.

Some highlights for me have been the formation of a new Turf Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP), complete with a dedicated Chair, and attending the Turf Australia Sustainability Conference in Darwin earlier this year. Getting out to see growers at QLD and NSW turf farms and industry events has been a great way to see the innovation happening within the sector.

There is a strong focus on promoting the benefits of natural turf and green city spaces, with education leading the way. Additionally, the endorsement of a biosecurity project aimed at combating Red Imported Fire Ants will fortify the industry's defences against pests.

Key information about your investments

- Download your industry's 2024/25 Annual Investment Plan [here](#).
- Access your industry's key investments through an easy-to-read fact sheet [here](#).
- See all ongoing and completed R&D investments and resources on the Hort Innovation website [here](#).

How to get involved with Hort Innovation

We encourage you to explore the ways you can stay close to what your levy is achieving throughout the year...

- Keep an eye out for our regular news updates. Stay across the latest research and development, trade and marketing advancements and resources through our monthly Growing Innovation newsletter

and the quarterly Impact Update, along with invites to events, webinars and other opportunities.

- Become a member. Paying a levy doesn't automatically make you a Hort Innovation member, but signing up is free at www.horticulture.com.au/membership. As well as providing the opportunity for voting rights at the organisation's Annual General Meeting, Hort Innovation membership brings you closer to investment activities and results in your industry, and to the organisation as a whole.
- Visit the Hort Innovation website. The Hort Innovation website (www.horticulture.com.au) is a repository of information about our organisation's activities, as well as detailed information about our investments.
- Engage with your industry communications program. Hort Innovation invests in a range of industry-specific communications programs that are dedicated to bringing you the latest information and advice for growers, including news, outcomes and resources related to your levy investments. Get in touch with us at communications@horticulture.com.au to find out more about how you can sign up and keep informed.

As the turf industry's dedicated Industry Service & Delivery Manager at Hort Innovation, I encourage you to get in touch with me if you have any questions. I can be reached at rachel.davis@horticulture.com.au.

As we look ahead, we are excited to continue investing in a prosperous and sustainable Australian horticulture industry, built on innovation and in partnership with the sector.

Regards,

Rachel Davis

Hort Innovation Industry Service & Delivery Manager

Visit the Hort Innovation Turf Fund page: www.horticulture.com.au/growers/turf-fund

Photo courtesy of Ord Valley Turf.



Investing in a prosperous and sustainable future for the turf industry

We advance Australia's \$16.3 billion horticulture industry by investing in research and development, marketing and trade to build a prosperous and sustainable future for growers.

Quick facts

- Work is underway to increase the value of turf through an industry development and extension program to assist growers in developing their skills, knowledge and businesses – see hortinn.com/tu21001 for more.
- Did you know there is a wealth of evidence that demonstrates the benefit of turf vs synthetic grass? Benefits include its cooling properties, bushfire protection, and how it is a natural sponge for carbon dioxide. Find out more at www.turfaustralia.com.au/resources/turf-information/natural-turf-vs-synthetic-grass.
- Do you receive the Turf Australia magazine and e-newsletter? Stay up-to-date with the latest research and tools plus industry news and more by subscribing here: www.turfaustralia.com.au/news/newsletter-subscription/.
- Accurate and reliable turf industry data including value, volume and other benchmarking statistics to assist you in your decision-making is available to you each year. Learn more at hortinn.com/tu21000.
- Dive into the latest, most comprehensive Australian turf consumer data available through the Hort IQ platform at www.hortiq.com.au.

Tools and resources

Hort Innovation delivers:

- Levy-funded training and development opportunities.
- Access to local and trade market data to help inform your decision making.
- A wealth of information on the latest R&D findings across biosecurity, production techniques, technology, waste reduction, export tips and more
- Year-round events showcasing the latest tech, production methods and pest and disease management techniques.

Get involved

Did you know you can help shape the way investments are made on behalf of your industry, get involved in field trials or even shape the Hort Innovation Board?

For more information, reach out to the turf industry's dedicated Industry Service & Delivery Manager, Rachel Davis, on **0473 849 360** or rachel.davis@horticulture.com.au.

Hort Innovation invests turf growers' marketing levies into a range of activities to drive consumer awareness and encourage purchase. Find out more at www.turfaustralia.com.au.

lawnspiration



Access tools and resources on the Hort Innovation Turf Fund page



View the latest turf industry data



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An update on the National Water Agreement



In the previous edition of *TurfConnect* magazine, we provided a breakdown of proposed amendments to the **National Water Agreement**. The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) released a Consultation Paper titled **'A new national water agreement, seeking public and industry views and comment on a future national water agreement.'**

We shared with readers our response submitted to the Consultation Paper on behalf of the Australian Turf Industry in June. On 5 December 2024 we received a reply from the National Water Initiative (NWI) containing a report (Phase 3 of the consultation process) titled: *"What we heard"* summarising the feedback, comments and concerns collated during Phase 2 (public and industry feedback).

The NWI received 114 submissions from communities, stakeholders and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across Australia, and thanked Turf Australia for valuable insights submitted. 🌿

Please visit www.dcceew.gov.au/ to view a copy of the Updated draft National Water Agreement, or email communications@turfaustralia.com.au for a copy.

Scan to go to:
What We Heard Report



*Scan to go to:
Updated Draft: National Water Agreement



Australian Government

Department of Climate Change, Energy,
the Environment and Water

National Water Agreement overview ★

This overview explains how a new National Water Agreement will work once finalised. At the time of publishing no agreement has been reached. An updated draft agreement has been published to show the progress that has been made. This is not the final agreement.

The National Water Agreement is an intergovernmental agreement that builds on the collaborative efforts of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to balance all water needs and underpin water security for the nation. It expresses the commitment of parties to achieve common objectives for water reform and the ongoing management of Australia's water resources. The National Water Agreement is needed to address new and emerging water management challenges and secure Australia's water future.

Once agreed, jurisdictions that are parties to the agreement will develop action plans to detail what they will do to achieve the agreement's objectives. Consultation with communities will be key to the development of action plans. Action plans will be published and reported on annually, both to the Water Ministerial Council and publicly.

The new agreement builds on the 2004 Intergovernmental agreement on a National Water Initiative (NWI). All parties to the new agreement remain committed to the sound water management objectives of the NWI. They are reflected in this agreement.

States and territories continue to be primarily responsible for water resources. All governments are responding to pressures on water resources in ways that reflect the needs and aspirations of their communities. These individual efforts are strengthened through participation in the agreement.



What is its purpose?

The new National Water Agreement will guide a coordinated approach to water resource management across the nation to make sure Australia can effectively address current and future water challenges, including those associated with climate change and increasing demand. Parties to the agreement will develop action plans to detail what they will do to achieve the agreement's objectives. In this way, the agreement sets a nationally consistent framework, while providing flexibility for parties to decide how to implement it.

The new agreement does not change existing water resource plans or jurisdictional legislation.

What does the agreement contain?

The agreement comprises:

- objectives – seven high-level goals that all parties will work towards as key priorities for water reform and management.
- outcomes – these describe the changes that need to occur to achieve the objectives.
- principles – these provide guidance that parties must consider in working to achieve the objectives and outcomes in a consistent way. Where a principle is not relevant, or parties use approaches other than those set out in the principles to achieve outcomes, this should be identified in the action plans
- schedules – these provide further detail on technical aspects of water management.

How will it work?



5 year Action Plans



Annual reporting



Independent assessment

As with the 2004 National Water Initiative, parties cannot be legally bound to the new agreement. However, to support nationally consistent water reform, parties will need to agree to the objectives and outcomes.

The parties agree that actions under this agreement will be implemented in accordance with action plans. Once the agreement is finalised all jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, will have up to 2 years to develop action plans. Action plans are to be updated at least once every 5 years.

The action plans will:

- reflect the circumstances of each jurisdiction
- outline the jurisdiction's water policy priorities for the five-year cycle
- include policies, programs and initiatives that work towards the objectives and outcomes
- be developed and delivered considering the principles in the agreement. Where a principle is not relevant, or parties use approaches other than those set out in the principles to achieve outcomes, this should be identified in the action plans
- describe key information such as the proposed delivery timeline, process, funding source, and key parties in development and delivery of an action
- be provided to the Water Ministerial Council and made publicly available.

Water Ministerial Council oversight and transparency

The Water Ministerial Council, made up of Commonwealth, state and territory water ministers, will oversee implementation of this agreement.

The Water Ministerial Council will note parties' completed action plans and parties will be required to report annually to the Water Ministerial Council on progress against these action plans, with the reports to be made public.

Independent assessment

The parties' implementation of this agreement, and progress towards achieving its objectives and outcomes within the timelines set out in action plans, will be subject to independent assessment every 3 to 5 years. These reviews will be conducted as required under relevant legislation. This is a statutory role currently undertaken by the Productivity Commission.

GUEST COLUMN

Conflict done right: strategies to boost team and business performance



One of the trickiest things my clients struggle with is **how to deal with conflict**. Many of us are afraid to confront it, and in my 30 years as a leadership and team performance facilitator and coach, I've noticed that people across all industries find conflict challenging. So, if you do too, don't worry—you're completely normal!

However, if we can get it right, conflict can actually be a powerful catalyst for growth, improving both business and personal performance. When approached with curiosity and respect, it transforms from a source of tension into a tool for better teamwork and stronger results. The great news? It's a skill we can all develop.

Do you handle conflict in a way that drives success, or do you become a Turtle, retreating into your shell and hoping it will disappear? Maybe you turn into a Shark, steamrolling others to get your way. Or perhaps you're a Teddy Bear, always putting others' needs ahead of your own.

A game-changer for me has been the **Thomas Kilmann Conflict Instrument**. This tool helps us decide how to handle conflict based on two factors: our desire to achieve our goal (assertiveness) and our willingness to prioritise the other person's needs (cooperativeness). It's about thinking strategically: Is preserving the relationship more important, achieving my goal, or a balance of both?

Human behaviour is complex, and how we handle conflict depends on the situation. We all have natural tendencies toward one or two styles, but the goal is to understand our behaviour, recognize others' approaches, and adapt for the best outcome.

If your go-to style is always being a Shark - "my way or the highway" - and you lead a team, this is like using only one golf club to play every shot on the course. It's not effective or the smart thing to do. Overusing this style erodes trust and damages relationships, ultimately hurting individual and business performance.

On the flip side, some of us could benefit from channelling a bit more healthy, assertive Shark energy. Standing up for our needs - without being aggressive - can prevent resentment and improve outcomes.

So next time you're experiencing some conflict in your life, try to step back and think first - what is the most appropriate behaviour for this person and this situation? Make sure your golf bag has all the clubs in it so you can pick out the one that is best for the person and the situation.

With the right approach, conflict can become an opportunity instead of a roadblock.

Investing in the skills to be able to manage conflict more effectively is worth it. What would handling conflict better mean for our confidence, our performance, and the success of our teams and businesses in the turf industry?

Cynthia Mahoney is an Agricultural Scientist with a Masters in Farm Business Management Economics/Rural Sociology. Her technical expertise is in lifting leadership and team performance, and well-being and identifying how we can be our best at work. If you'd like to chat about Cynthia helping your leaders and teams via her workshops and/or team and individual coaching please go to: www.cynthiamahoney.com.au



7 Quick Facts about Equipment Finance in 2025

Managing equipment financing is essential for turf industry professionals looking to grow and streamline their operations. Here are seven key insights tailored specifically for the turf sector:

1. Diversify Your Financing Sources

Relying solely on your main bank for equipment loans can limit your options and flexibility. Banks often hold a General Security Agreement (GSA) over your business, which includes all assets, even those not under finance. This can restrict your ability to access additional funds. By working with multiple financiers, you can:

- Secure more competitive rates and terms.
- Build relationships with different lenders, making future financing easier.
- Enjoy faster approvals, often without extensive financial documentation.
- This approach ensures your equipment finance is kept separate, leaving your primary bank free to support other needs.

2. Explore Quality Used Equipment

With post-COVID price increases and exchange rate fluctuations impacting imported machines like harvesters, quality used equipment can be a smart alternative. Used equipment financing often comes with similar interest rates to new purchases, helping you get the machinery you need quickly while managing costs effectively.

3. Simplify Private Sales Financing

Buying equipment privately, like from other businesses, is common in the turf industry. While it can involve extra steps like inspections and ownership checks, a skilled finance broker can help streamline the process, making private sales hassle-free.

4. Shop Around for the Best Rates

Equipment financing rates vary widely between lenders. Exploring your options or working with a finance broker can lead to significant savings. For example, reducing your interest rate by just 2% on a \$300,000 loan over five years could save you around \$20,000.



5. Consider No-Financials Financing

For equipment loans under \$500,000, many financiers offer approvals without requiring detailed financial statements. In some cases, loans up to \$1million may be approved without financials, speeding up the process and allowing you to get essential equipment without unnecessary delays.

6. Improve Cash Flow Management

Rising farm expenses and stable turf prices can put pressure on cash flow. Equipment finance repayments can be structured to suit your budget, whether you prefer shorter terms to build equity quickly or longer terms to free up funds for other needs. Tailored repayments provide predictability, which is crucial for managing the seasonal demands of turf farming.

7. Work with a Finance Broker

Finance brokers offer a personalised approach, using their extensive lender networks to secure competitive terms on your behalf. They handle all the paperwork and provide expert advice, often achieving rates that are as good as — or better than — those offered by banks.

By using these strategies, turf industry professionals can optimise their equipment financing and keep their operations running smoothly.

Ready to take the next step?

Contact Chris Girle from Finlease today on 0448 480 180 or cgirle@finlease.com.au for tailored finance solutions designed to meet your needs.

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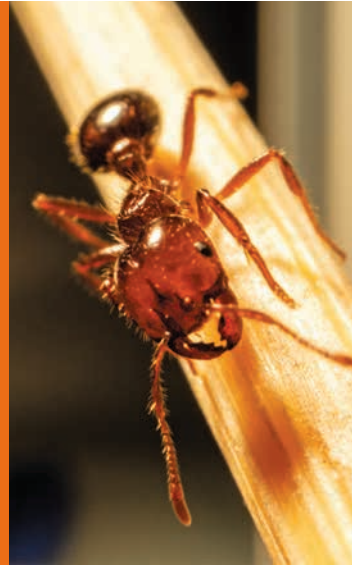
★★★★★ FROM 1,000+ REVIEWS



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An uphill battle: Red Imported Fire Ants nightmare far from over



Turf Australia backs Turf Queensland's call for urgent review of Fire Ant Treatment Protocols

In November Turf Australia joined Turf Queensland in urging the Queensland Government to take decisive action to address the growing challenges posed by Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) for Queensland growers.

We pointed out that our industry, which plays a crucial role in Australia's green infrastructure, is facing significant biosecurity pressures that threaten market access and the sustainability of Queensland's turf growers.

Turf Queensland highlighted two urgent priorities for the National Fire Ant Eradication Program:

- **Review of Bifenthrin Efficacy**

Despite widespread use, persistent RIFA infestations indicate the need for a comprehensive review of Bifenthrin's effectiveness as a treatment method. Turf growers have consistently adhered to all biosecurity protocols, yet infestations around their properties remain a significant issue. The industry is calling for the evaluation of alternative treatment options and application strategies to achieve better outcomes.

Despite widespread use, persistent RIFA infestations indicate the need for a comprehensive review of Bifenthrin's effectiveness as a treatment method.

- **Reinstating Helicopter Treatment Programs**

The large-scale infestations require immediate intervention. Turf Queensland is advocating for a blitz-style helicopter treatment program to target infested areas surrounding turf farms. This proactive approach would support treatment by growers and reduce the risk of further spread.

Queensland's turf growers have been praised for their compliance efforts by both the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF). However, despite following regulations "by the book," they face ongoing barriers to interstate trade due to external infestations.

"If our growers are fully compliant but still encountering these issues, it's clear that systemic failures within the program need to be

addressed. A collaborative, science-backed approach is essential to protect growers, support the industry, and maintain Australia's biosecurity integrity," said Eva Ricci, Turf Australia Executive Officer.

Turf Australia reaffirms its commitment to working with Turf Queensland, the Queensland Government, and the broader industry to ensure effective solutions are implemented. Together, we aim to safeguard agricultural productivity, secure market access, and protect the long-term viability of the turf industry.

A collaborative, science-backed approach is essential to protect growers, support the industry, and maintain Australia's biosecurity integrity,"

A temporary suspension of turf movements from Queensland fire ant infested areas into any part of NSW was initiated by the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) from 15 November 2024. (Still in place at the time of publication)

Turf Australia is dedicated to do all we can in our advocacy efforts to support growers affected by fire ants, and will continue to work closely with Turf Queensland toward the best possible outcomes. We will publish updates as they happen through our electronic communications.

For those unaffected by fire ants, it is hard to fully understand the significant impact RIFA have had on growers and communities. We thank Sarah-Jane Mason and John Keleher for sharing their personal experience with us in an impact statement to outline the many ways in which their farms have been affected. See over...

Continued...



An uphill battle: Red Imported Fire Ants nightmare far from over

IMPACT STATEMENT: John Keleher, ALC

"Whilst it is difficult to deliver an exact dollar amount on the lost income and/or cost of compliance I am able to give a ballpark number as to the effect on lost revenue in dollars and costs/problems it has generated operationally. Firstly, I will give some background on this pest and provide some context around the difficulty of operating a business when complying with Biosecurity orders placed upon us.

Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) are said to be one of the worst pests that any country can encounter and as a business dealing with compliance imposed on us I can attest to that. Originating in South America this pest has travelled the world colonising every country it has managed to land on. No country has yet managed to successfully eradicate this pest once it has inhabited its lands. Australia appears to be its latest victim although Biosecurity Australia has set its sights on eradication by 2032, this being some 20 to 30 years after arrival of the RIFA.

A key component in the fight to eradicate this pest is the establishment of the National Fire Ant Eradication Program (NFAEP) which is a Federally funded body (individual states contribute funds according to population) administered by Biosecurity QLD. A Fire Ant Suppression Team (FAST) is a QLD funded state-based action group within QLD DPI established to manage the RIFA within the Infested zones of South East Queensland that are not treated by the NFAEP eradication zone. Currently the NFAEP is treating an 800 000 ha area of land on the outskirts of the zone (Eradication Zone). The target time for eradication is 2032.

All that being said, we are located in the suppression zone (zone 2) and are therefore having to live and work with the RIFA under a directional permit to be able to deliver turf to customers in QLD only at this time with turf harvested from our farm. We can deliver to NSW customers with turf grown on farms outside the RIFA zone. To continue supply to our customers in NSW we have been sourcing turf from outside of the zone. We are truly grateful to our associate growers who have supported us with this but buying turf as opposed to growing it is expensive.

The General Biosecurity Obligation (GBO) has become a common term in this business and it would be wise for all businesses to be aware of your GBO for all pests and diseases that fall under the biosecurity classification. Farms outside the zone should be equipping themselves now with knowledge and considering contingency plans should their farm come under a Biosecurity directive in the future.

The RIFA has for all intents and purposes been relatively easy to control with the recommended chemistry on the farm. Their nests are easily spotted once you are familiar with the style and location typical of this pest and treatment is effective. The issue has been the number of nests located in surrounding areas and the ability of the fireant to fly as a means of propagating themselves. The propagules or mated female alates are the real problem as this is how they may be transported in turf.

To further explain the nuptial flight – the female will fly to a height between 500 and 800 feet and mate with the male alate the mated female will then fly to a suitable site on the ground where she will begin establishing a colony – there is a number of variables around

where she lands and how far she flies etc. (that is another story). The problem for the turf industry is this propagule has been landing on fields of turf that are being harvested and the potential exists for the RIFA to be harvested in the turf and transported in a pallet. Currently, work is underway to determine how best to overcome this risk especially during periods of high nuptial flights in spring where it has been recorded that a nest can produce queen fire ants in numbers exceeding 1000 per nest. We have seen mated queen fire ants actively moving around the ground following a favourable weather event in recent months.

A Turf Task Force (TTF) within the Nation Fire Ant Eradication Program has been established to provide a thinktank to assist in determining the best way forward to mitigate the risk of RIFA being transported in turf. The TTF members are a select group of scientists from different states, compliance and legislation personnel, turf growers and Program Directors. We are hopeful that the recommendations developed will achieve the desired outcome of giving turf market access across state borders and outside current infested zones.

Meanwhile, the Biosecurity restrictions on our business have severely limited the ability to deliver to our customers located across the border. Costs have been calculated to be more than \$1.6million dollars of lost revenue during the past 10 months. The ongoing cost of treatment is also a major cost burden with a calculated

treatment cost in the past 10 months of \$325,000 dollars in chemical alone let alone the operational requirements of spraying, reporting and covering of turf.

We have seen several changes to requirements over the last 12 months and each time we have had to pivot and mobilise these changes to meet our obligations immediately. The time critical pressure of these changes has placed a lot of stress on our staff and many extra hours of work in operational planning and logistics to ensure we can continue to trade. There is also the added burden of paying for the processing of all turf plant movement certificates per order for turf sent over the border- this can be as much as \$1000 dollars per day. Brand damage is difficult to calculate in terms of dollar value for an individual business and even harder to calculate on an industry wide basis- especially when biosecurity press releases are continuously and incorrectly reporting turf as the only transporter of RIFA.

In 20 plus years in the turf business we have experienced six significant floods, a global financial crisis, a pandemic and countless other weather-related events but all of these collectively have not cost this business as much in dollars relating to lost sales, treatment, compliance and operational changes than this current Fire Ant event has cost in ten months. We are awaiting some scientific research to develop a more effective management program/system for RIFA when transporting turf across state boundaries and outside current RIFA zones."

John Keleher
Australian Lawn Concepts



IMPACT STATEMENT: Sarah Mason, Coastal Turf



"As a turf farm located in NSW, we are deeply concerned about the spread of Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA) into the state. Our farm is situated in the Tweed Shire, which borders Queensland. When RIFA first became a problem in Queensland many years ago, we had to change the way we imported turf across the border. Having lived through the COVID border issues, we thought we were well-practiced in navigating the different rules and regulations of the two states. However, we were very wrong.

When RIFA were first discovered in NSW, the infestation occurred in the same town as my children's high school. Being the closest turf farm to the area, we received significant pushback from the community, as many assumed the infestation originated from our farm. Not only did our business suffer, but personally, we all felt a bit attacked by the community.

The NSW Government was very proactive in clarifying that our farm was not the source of the infestation, but rather a Queensland-based farm. Although they did not name the farm, they ensured the community understood it was not us. Once our business and team had moved on from this shock, we began navigating the rules and regulations for moving turf from Wivenhoe Pocket in Queensland to our farm in NSW. This process started with Turfbiz's farm and business in Wivenhoe Pocket obtaining Plant Health certification.

Of the several farms we purchased from, only one turf farm in Queensland was willing to work with us to ensure we followed the correct procedures for moving turf across the border. Stating financial costs were too high, and reporting too complicated to make it worthwhile selling turf across the border. This limited our supply and increased costs. Turfbiz in Wivenhoe Pocket had to provide the Queensland governing body with numerous spray records and grant access to their farm. It was a real credit to them the effort and time they dedicated to continuing to supply us.

One of the Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Orders stated that all turf from Queensland, once laid, had to have insecticide applied to the finished installation. This imposed additional financial costs on us, as we now had to supply insecticide to all turf supplied. There were also workplace health and safety concerns for our staff, as well as customer health concerns during the application process. We had several discussions with both DPI NSW and WorkSafe NSW to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

The final Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order, which closed the border to any turf farms located within the PINK zone on the map, was a huge blow to us. The government issued the order at 4:45pm on Friday, November 15. Not the ideal time to change an entire week's worth of planned work. Only with the help of friends in the industry were we able to continue trading successfully, sourcing varieties like Sir Walter and Zoysia. The mental health toll was immense, not just on our team, but also on those at Turfbiz and Go Turf, where we sourced our turf.

With each new Biosecurity (Fire Ant) Emergency Order NSW that has been enforced over the past 12 months, we've had to continually adjust how we purchase and move turf. The process of supplying turf to our customers in both NSW and Queensland has become increasingly difficult. While there are definite additional financial costs,



the mental health strain on our team and their families has been even more challenging.

The constant threat of border closures, the fear of accidentally supplying turf with fire ants, and the concern that we won't be able to deliver premium-quality turf to our customers in a timely manner has weighed heavily on us. The fear of negative media coverage has also added to our stress.

The constant threat of border closures, the fear of accidentally supplying turf with fire ants, and the concern that we won't be able to deliver premium-quality turf to our customers in a timely manner has weighed heavily on us. The fear of negative media coverage has also added to our stress.

In NSW, we do not want RIFA. We want to protect our state, our native species, and wildlife. At Coastal Turf, we are committed to safeguarding our team, our farm, and our customers. We do not believe we should be punished for the inconsistencies of the Queensland Government or its failure to prevent infestations in their state. In our opinion, if the Queensland Government had taken the fire ant problem seriously years ago, treated and eradicated the original nests, and imposed restrictions on these infestations, we would not be in the situation we face today. We know that farms we work with are taking measures to prevent RIFA, even when they haven't had infestations, and we also understand that farms in the South East Corner of Queensland are fighting an uphill battle against infestations near their farms, especially when neighbours refuse to treat the problem. Sometimes, these neighbours are even government departments. NSW should not have to bear the consequences of Queensland's oversight, nor should we have to contend with the risk of infections from an introduced species that poses a threat to both people and wildlife.

It is now up to the Queensland Government to take control of the situation and prevent further harm to an industry that supports a "healthy outdoor" lifestyle. If RIFA continue to infest parks, playgrounds, and backyards in Queensland, people will be forced indoors, and tourism will come to a halt at the NSW border."

Sarah-Jane Mason
Coastal Turf





Monument[®] Liquid

Turf herbicide

MONUMENT[®] Liquid Turf herbicide is the heavy hitter when it comes to the control of hard to manage grasses, sedges and broadleaf weeds in one product. If you are growing any *Cynodon dactylon* (couch grass) and *Zoysia* varieties, then MONUMENT[®] should be the go to herbicide for cleaning up turf. MONUMENT[®] is an excellent product for burning down Bahia Grass seedhead which greatly reduces the need for mowing for Bahia Grass when it has invaded the area and has become the predominant species.

MONUMENT[®] has also for many years been the standard go-to for persistent problems such as Kikuyu invasion into Couchgrass. Best application timing for Kikuyu management is Autumn with root, shoot and leaf uptake. MONUMENT[®] is also highly effective in controlling *Poa annua*, ryegrass, sedges and a wide spectrum of broadleaf weeds.

Turf Production Benefits

The summer of 2024/25 is predicted to be wetter and slightly hotter than the average and these conditions contribute to a surge in grasses and broadleaf weeds. With the increase in growth then mowing cycles become difficult to complete in the allocated time period. Increases in growth in turf production can be managed via a number of management systems such as:

- Increase mowing cycles: assign more staff to mowing duties and or improve the machinery used (larger mowers).
- Use Plant Growth Regulators such as PRIMO MAXX[®] II to improve the aesthetic of turf and reduce the mowing requirement.
- Employ the use of selective herbicides such as MONUMENT[®] to manage the plant species to reduce the mowing requirement.

MONUMENT[®] LIQUID Turf Herbicide

MONUMENT[®] is used at very low rates per hectare and is available in a 1L pack for larger areas and 100mL pack size for convenience.

Once applied it:

- Acts fully systemic (xylem and phloem) with root, shoot and leaf uptake
- Translocates to growth points
- Rainfast within 3 hours

MONUMENT[®] works by:

- Group 2 post-emergent – inhibitors of acetolactate synthase (ALS inhibitors)
- Shuts down building blocks for growth
- Results in gradual and effective weed death

MONUMENT[®] offers great flexibility with application:

- Re-entry period is when dry on the leaf
- Minimal PPE required

For best results with MONUMENT[®]:

Non-ionic: For best results with MONUMENT[®], a quality non-ionic surfactant such as AGRAL[®] should be added as followed. For instance, use AGRAL[®] (600g ai/L) at 0.42% v/v or 420mL/100 L spray mix.

Soil Temperature: Speed of weed death varies with soil temperature; expect 3–6 weeks in summer and 6–8 weeks in late winter. Avoid application when soil temperature drops below 14°C as there is almost no activity below 12°C. Consider the soil temperature at time of application, some herbicides are soil temperature sensitive and application in the middle of winter with soil temperatures below 12°C may result in very little uptake by weeds and thus less than optimal control.

Water application rate: Should be between 400–800L/ha with higher volumes recommended for higher cut turf above 15mm.

MONUMENT[®] is also tank mix compatible with CASPER[®] Turf herbicide for increased broadleaf weed control. For the most efficient use of Syngenta herbicides, a programmed approach will offer increased results with less applications, saving time and money. A programmed approach will also allow for improved efficacy as smaller weeds are more easily controlled than larger ones leading to improved outcomes for your facility.

MONUMENT[®] Herbicide is a very versatile herbicide that can be used to improve the aesthetic and health of highly maintained turf produced for golf and sportsfields. MONUMENT[®] will reduce the number of applications required as it will uniquely control a broad range of turf broad leaf weeds and grasses.



For more information visit
syngentaturf.com.au or contact
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syngenta

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Keep your turf farm clean of weeds

Apply PENNMAG® Turf Herbicide to the soil immediately post harvest for residual control of weeds for up to 8 weeks. PENNMAG® has minimal effect on new root establishment allowing your turf to “peg down” faster.



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Scan the QR code to get rewarded for rewarding your customers with weed-free turf

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®

Getting a grip on

TURF INDUSTRY

LOAD RESTRAINT GUIDELINES



The topic of load restraint has featured high on the agenda for Turf NSW in 2024 after being awarded a project to develop safety guidelines for the restraint of turf products by the **National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR)**.

The project covered the restraint of packaging, mass- and load distribution on various heavy vehicles. Turf NSW, funded by the **Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative (HVSII)**, engaged and collaborated with Engistics to develop certified restraint- and mass management systems specific to the needs of the turf industry.

The project included the development of a restraint manual ('load restraint guide') and targeted training sessions in group settings and one-on-one on-farm formats.



As this project comes to an end, we sat down with **Drew Tompson from Engistics** (left) to discuss some of the most common mistakes he encounters, the most commonly asked questions and a run-down of resources and training available to growers on the topic...

Q. What are some of the most common mistakes you see on farms?

"The most common thing you see out in the industry is the reliance on the 2.5t rating of the webbing lashing to hold down 2.5t of load weight, relying on low friction surfaces (steel on steel) for a tie-down restraint system, and gaps to the front of a headboard and relying on it to stop the load from moving forward.

With direct restraint of equipment, we see a lot of mobile plant (like excavators) being restrained with chains that won't apply a direct stopping force in all directions to prevent movement."

Q. What are some of the questions most commonly asked during your training sessions and demonstrations?

"We are always asked how to reduce the amount of lashing needed; and who can be liable to a transport task if the grower doesn't touch the truck or load.

Regarding the number of lashings required: This is based on several influencing factors – especially in a restraint system such as tie down. By changing these factors, we can reduce the number of lashings required. First (if possible) block it to the headboard, then try to increase the friction between the load and/or the load and truck deck. Then try to increase the force pushing the load into the deck by using a higher tensioning device like a high pretension ratchet or increasing the lashing angle.



"We are proud of the work undertaken in this project to support the turf industry. The engagement from growers across the country has been incredibly encouraging, reflecting their commitment to reviewing and improving operations within their businesses. The Guidelines have been developed to support growers in enhancing farm safety, and we strongly encourage all growers to utilise the resources provided. Ultimately, our goal is simple yet vital: to ensure that all turf production workers and contractors return home safely at the end of each day."

*Jenny Zadro, Executive Officer,
Turf Growers Association of NSW (Turf NSW)*

When it comes to liability: Depending on your actions or inactions you may have an influence on the transport task (such as setting delivery and pick up times) and therefore you could be liable under the chain of responsibility. If you are organising the truck to pick up or deliver the load, then you have an obligation under the heavy vehicle national law to ensure it is completed safely."

Q. Could you recommend a list of the best resources for growers to review and keep on hand?

"The best thing a grower can use for a good amount of information about all types of loads is the **National Transport Commission Load Restraint Guide** - particularly the **tie-down table** (see following pages). This table can be used to determine if any type of tie-down restraint system meets the on-road requirements."

Q. Are any training sessions coming soon?

"Yes, we have added some dates to our in-depth load restraint training schedule, covering all aspects of load restraint. We can also run in-house sessions on-farm focusing on the chain of responsibility and load restraint fundamentals with key reference to the developed system and turf products. 🍷"

*A library of guideline and certification resources, as well as training videos can be found on the Turf NSW website:
www.turfnsw.com.au/?page_id=3588*

TRAINING COURSES & RESOURCES

To book an **Engistics training course** or to access the **Turf NSW load restraint resource library**, scan the following QR codes:

Turf NSW Load Restraint Resources Library



Engistics Course Registration & Contact page



Upcoming 2025 course dates for Engistics in-depth training:

- Brisbane: 19 March
- Melbourne: 19 March
- Sydney: 1 April
- Newcastle: 2 April
- Perth: 9 April

In-Depth Load Restraint Course

INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE HEAVY VEHICLE NATIONAL LAW 2018 & THE 2018 NTC LOAD RESTRAINT GUIDE

COURSE CONTENT

The aim of the course is to provide you with a clear understanding of load restraint principles for road transport.

Topics such as:

- load restraint and the law (inc. CoR),
- tie-down & friction,
- direct restraint,
- lashing stretch and toppling,
- blocking, gates & rated curtains,
- speed effects & risks,
- load building principles,
- example case studies/workshops, and much more will be discussed.

Best of all, bring along your load restraint problems and we'll discuss potential solutions!

THE COST

Individual \$900pp inc GST*
3+ Group \$765pp inc GST*
* Book 21+ days early and receive a \$60 discount
 Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea included
training@engistics.com.au

ABOUT ENGISTICS

Engistics is a specialised engineering consultancy that leads the way in Australia and New Zealand in Load Restraint and Logistics Engineering.

We use quality engineering to investigate incidents (right up to and including fatalities) and we understand the science behind safe and efficient Logistics.

OUR DIFFERENCE

Our training is knowledge based and delivered by expert engineers, not trained parrots who repeat things that they don't really understand themselves.

Our Load Restraint training is second to none as witnessed to by the fact that we train the NHVR inspectors!

www.engistics.com.au



EXTRACT FROM: *National Transport Commission Load Restraint Guide, 2018*

NUMBER OF TIE-DOWN LASHINGS

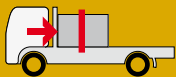
50MM WEBBING STRAPS, PUSH-UP HAND RATCHET OR TRUCK WINCH

Lashings:		Tensioner:			Pre-tension:	
50 mm webbing straps		Push-up hand ratchet or truck winch			300 kgf	
UNBLOCKED (RESTRAINED TO 0.8 G) 						
	Number of lashings	Lashing angle (from horizontal)				
		At least 75° AE > 0.95	At least 60° AE > 0.85	At least 45° AE > 0.70	At least 30° AE > 0.50	At least 15° AE > 0.25
HIGH FRICTION	Static friction: 0.6		Example: Rusty steel on timber or smooth steel on rubber load mat (not conveyer belt)			
	1	1,700 kg	1,500 kg	1,200 kg	900 kg	460 kg
	2	3,400 kg	3,100 kg	2,500 kg	1,800 kg	930 kg
	3	5,200 kg	4,600 kg	3,800 kg	2,700 kg	1,300 kg
	4	6,900 kg	6,200 kg	5,000 kg	3,600 kg	1,800 kg
	5	8,600 kg	7,700 kg	6,300 kg	4,500 kg	2,300 kg
	6	10,000 kg	9,300 kg	7,600 kg	5,400 kg	2,700 kg
	7	12,000 kg	10,000 kg	8,900 kg	6,300 kg	3,200 kg
	8	13,000 kg	12,000 kg	10,000 kg	7,200 kg	3,700 kg
	9	15,000 kg	14,000 kg	11,000 kg	8,100 kg	4,100 kg
	10	17,000 kg	15,000 kg	12,000 kg	9,000 kg	4,600 kg
MEDIUM FRICTION	Static friction: 0.4		Example: Smooth steel on timber			
	1	570 kg	510 kg	420 kg	300 kg	150 kg
	2	1,100 kg	1,000 kg	840 kg	600 kg	310 kg
	3	1,700 kg	1,500 kg	1,200 kg	900 kg	460 kg
	4	2,300 kg	2,000 kg	1,600 kg	1,200 kg	620 kg
	5	2,800 kg	2,500 kg	2,100 kg	1,500 kg	770 kg
	6	3,400 kg	3,100 kg	2,500 kg	1,800 kg	930 kg
	7	4,000 kg	3,600 kg	2,900 kg	2,100 kg	1,000 kg
	8	4,600 kg	4,100 kg	3,300 kg	2,400 kg	1,200 kg
	9	5,200 kg	4,600 kg	3,800 kg	2,700 kg	1,300 kg
	10	5,700 kg	5,100 kg	4,200 kg	3,000 kg	1,500 kg
LOW FRICTION	Static friction: 0.25		Example: Smooth steel on conveyer belt			
	1	260 kg	230 kg	190 kg	130 kg	70 kg
	2	520 kg	470 kg	380 kg	270 kg	140 kg
	3	790 kg	700 kg	570 kg	400 kg	210 kg
	4	1,000 kg	940 kg	770 kg	540 kg	280 kg
	5	1,300 kg	1,100 kg	960 kg	680 kg	350 kg
	6	1,500 kg	1,400 kg	1,100 kg	810 kg	420 kg
	7	1,800 kg	1,600 kg	1,300 kg	950 kg	490 kg
	8	2,100 kg	1,800 kg	1,500 kg	1,000 kg	560 kg
	9	2,300 kg	2,100 kg	1,700 kg	1,200 kg	630 kg
	10	2,600 kg	2,300 kg	1,900 kg	1,300 kg	700 kg
VERY LOW FRICTION	Static friction: 0.2		Example: Smooth steel on rusty steel			
	1	190 kg	170 kg	140 kg	100 kg	51 kg
	2	380 kg	340 kg	280 kg	200 kg	100 kg
	3	570 kg	510 kg	420 kg	300 kg	150 kg
	4	770 kg	690 kg	560 kg	400 kg	200 kg
	5	960 kg	860 kg	700 kg	500 kg	250 kg
	6	1,100 kg	1,000 kg	840 kg	600 kg	310 kg
	7	1,300 kg	1,200 kg	980 kg	700 kg	360 kg
	8	1,500 kg	1,300 kg	1,100 kg	800 kg	410 kg
	9	1,700 kg	1,500 kg	1,200 kg	900 kg	460 kg
	10	1,900 kg	1,700 kg	1,400 kg	1,000 kg	510 kg

EXTRACT FROM: *National Transport Commission Load Restraint Guide, 2018*

NUMBER OF TIE-DOWN LASHINGS

50MM WEBBING STRAPS, PUSH-UP HAND RATCHET OR TRUCK WINCH

Lashings:		Tensioner:			Pre-tension:	
50 mm webbing straps		Push-up hand ratchet or truck winch			300 kgf	
BLOCKED (RESTRAINED TO 0.5 G) 						
	Number of lashings	Lashing angle (from horizontal)				
		At least 75° AE > 0.95	At least 60° AE > 0.85	At least 45° AE > 0.70	At least 30° AE > 0.50	At least 15° AE > 0.25
HIGH FRICTION	Static friction: 0.6		Example: Rusty steel on timber or smooth steel on rubber load mat (not conveyer belt)			
	1	2,800 kg	2,500 kg	2,100 kg	1,500 kg	770 kg
	2	5,700 kg	5,100 kg	4,200 kg	3,000 kg	1,500 kg
	3	8,600 kg	7,700 kg	6,300 kg	4,500 kg	2,300 kg
	4	11,000 kg	10,000 kg	8,400 kg	6,000 kg	3,100 kg
	5	14,000 kg	12,000 kg	10,000 kg	7,500 kg	3,800 kg
	6	17,000 kg	15,000 kg	12,000 kg	9,000 kg	4,600 kg
	7	20,000 kg	18,000 kg	14,000 kg	10,000 kg	5,400 kg
	8	23,000 kg	20,000 kg	16,000 kg	12,000 kg	6,200 kg
	9	26,000 kg	23,000 kg	19,000 kg	13,000 kg	6,900 kg
	10	28,000 kg	25,000 kg	21,000 kg	15,000 kg	7,700 kg
MEDIUM FRICTION	Static friction: 0.4		Example: Smooth steel on timber			
	1	2,300 kg	2,000 kg	1,600 kg	1,200 kg	620 kg
	2	4,600 kg	4,100 kg	3,300 kg	2,400 kg	1,200 kg
	3	6,900 kg	6,200 kg	5,000 kg	3,600 kg	1,800 kg
	4	9,200 kg	8,300 kg	6,700 kg	4,800 kg	2,400 kg
	5	11,000 kg	10,000 kg	8,400 kg	6,000 kg	3,100 kg
	6	13,000 kg	12,000 kg	10,000 kg	7,200 kg	3,700 kg
	7	16,000 kg	14,000 kg	11,000 kg	8,400 kg	4,300 kg
	8	18,000 kg	16,000 kg	13,000 kg	9,600 kg	4,900 kg
	9	20,000 kg	18,000 kg	15,000 kg	10,000 kg	5,500 kg
	10	23,000 kg	20,000 kg	16,000 kg	12,000 kg	6,200 kg
LOW FRICTION	Static friction: 0.25		Example: Smooth steel on conveyer belt			
	1	570 kg	510 kg	420 kg	300 kg	150 kg
	2	1,100 kg	1,000 kg	840 kg	600 kg	310 kg
	3	1,700 kg	1,500 kg	1,200 kg	900 kg	460 kg
	4	2,300 kg	2,000 kg	1,600 kg	1,200 kg	620 kg
	5	2,800 kg	2,500 kg	2,100 kg	1,500 kg	770 kg
	6	3,400 kg	3,100 kg	2,500 kg	1,800 kg	930 kg
	7	4,000 kg	3,600 kg	2,900 kg	2,100 kg	1,000 kg
	8	4,600 kg	4,100 kg	3,300 kg	2,400 kg	1,200 kg
	9	5,200 kg	4,600 kg	3,800 kg	2,700 kg	1,300 kg
	10	5,700 kg	5,100 kg	4,200 kg	3,000 kg	1,500 kg
VERY LOW FRICTION	Static friction: 0.2		Example: Smooth steel on rusty steel			
	1	380 kg	340 kg	280 kg	200 kg	100 kg
	2	770 kg	690 kg	560 kg	400 kg	200 kg
	3	1,100 kg	1,000 kg	840 kg	600 kg	310 kg
	4	1,500 kg	1,300 kg	1,100 kg	800 kg	410 kg
	5	1,900 kg	1,700 kg	1,400 kg	1,000 kg	510 kg
	6	2,300 kg	2,000 kg	1,600 kg	1,200 kg	620 kg
	7	2,700 kg	2,400 kg	1,900 kg	1,400 kg	720 kg
	8	3,000 kg	2,700 kg	2,200 kg	1,600 kg	820 kg
	9	3,400 kg	3,100 kg	2,500 kg	1,800 kg	930 kg
	10	3,800 kg	3,400 kg	2,800 kg	2,000 kg	1,000 kg

The Future of Turf Management: Satellite Imagery & DNA Analysis

Dr Brett Morris from Syngenta shared with delegates some technical advances in turf management at Turf Australia's industry conference in Darwin in May 2024. We were interested in the application of Brett's work on farm and reached out to him to get a better understanding of the broader applications of NDVI and DNA analysis testing. Here is what he shared with us...

Q. Could you explain what the NDVI technology is?

Normalised Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI) is used to quantify vegetation greenness and is useful in understanding vegetation density and assessing changes in plant health.

Q. What prompted Syngenta's use of NDVI technology initially?

Syngenta has been introducing this technology into cropping systems in different countries. We were introduced to it by one of our digital leads and we set about determining whether we could modify it to fit in turf systems. At this stage globally there are drones and specialised sensors being adapted to mowers but nothing to the scale of using satellites to detect stress.

Q. What are the main benefits and applications?

Our main goal initially is to have a turf manager be able to detect stress before that stress becomes visualised. When turf is under stress the amount of light being absorbed and reflected differs and we are able to detect this with the satellites enabling a more targeted approach to determine what that stress may be. For customers with large areas of turf under management (such as local government) being able to monitor the health of their fields remotely provides great benefits in terms of resource allocation. We are introducing auditing tools that we hope will make auditing fields a lot easier and faster, and providing improved insights.

Q. Did you find more applications were possible than first thought?

We have identified further builds which we have in mind for turf and also into tree care. The good thing about our approach and system is that it is not bound by borders so a few of our colleagues in other countries are watching the roll out and keen to look at it for their regions.

Q. What were some of the challenges during development?

There were a few challenges during development. First, was resolution. If you look at the cropping examples they are using satellites over wheat or avocado crops which cover many hundreds of acres and are anywhere between one to four metres in height which they are looking to maximise yield.

Our key differences is that we grow turf for health and our height differs significantly with heights anywhere between 10mm for a high end sports surface up to 100mm or so for a racetrack. Resolutions for crop are not tight enough for turf so after some work we found providers able to image down as tight as 30cm currently. Second, if we take an image – what does it mean and how does a customer use that to rectify a concern. So we set out with a software developer to create a custom platform which is dynamic in nature. Images are uploaded and the end user will be able to see trends over time and identify specific areas for investigation to pass onto staff. There are a number of other features but when complete, the end user presses a button and a report is compiled for them. There's been a number of other challenges along the way but we think we have solved them now.

Q. Where do you envisage this technology leading in the future?

The features will build over the years. Ultimately, it will become much more specific in what it is identifying from irrigation leaks to weed species and population levels. Models and Artificial Intelligence (AI) will develop trends over time and the end user will be alerted to upcoming concerns. The company has started down this route with avocados and nematodes interactions in South America.

The Concept

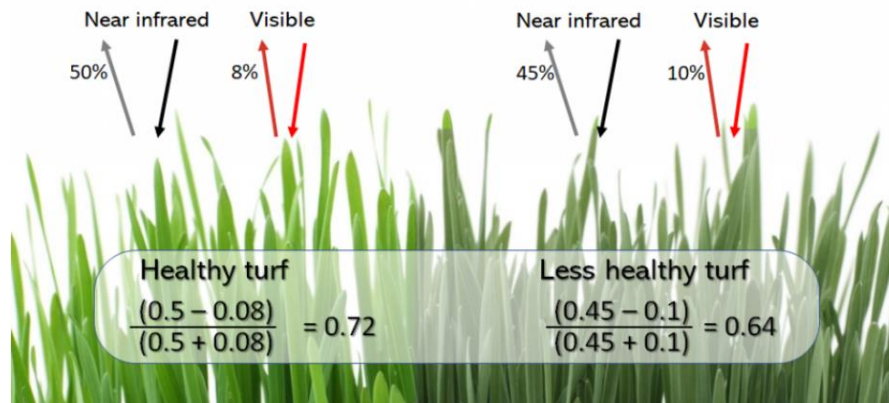
Utilise improving technology in the NDVI space to monitor turf stands remotely and detect stress before it becomes visible.



Our main goal initially is to have a turf manager be able to detect stress before that stress becomes visualized. When turf is under stress the amount of light being absorbed and reflected differs and we are able to detect this with the satellites enabling a more targeted approach to determine what that stress may be.

What does NDVI Measure?

NDVI measures the difference between NIR (reflected) and red visible light (absorbed) providing a value between 0.01 – 0.99.



Q. Could you please share with our growers an NDVI success story?

When we were in the early development stage we sought permission and imaged a well known racetrack. A spot showed up on the course proper near a jump out on the home straight which the track manager pointed at. Our technology helped to identify an irrigation head fault before it was visible.

Q. DNA analysis testing is another exciting development you shared with us at the conference. Could you tell us more about this?

Our DNA analysis testing is continuing, and we are nearing completion and release of that technology in 2025. One key weakness in our industry is the lack of classically trained turf pathologists – plenty in the United States but not here. So that we ensure accuracy in diagnosis, and in what customers apply to treat that concern, our unit can take a sample of turf and in less than one hour provide a DNA analysis of that sample. Globally we have around 40 primers developed with more underway. Primers are very specific and are a known sequence of DNA of a particular pathogen, which if present, then match with our unit providing the diagnosis. We have units here, New Zealand,

Singapore, Canada and in the US being tested at present. By testing we are running samples through, and I have done many here. We have worked out our techniques to get the best results and have found a number of very interesting results so far. Our goal with DNA is not to handle tests ourselves, rather have the units in labs around the country for diagnosis assistance.

Q. Are both initiatives available to the broader farming and turf management community?

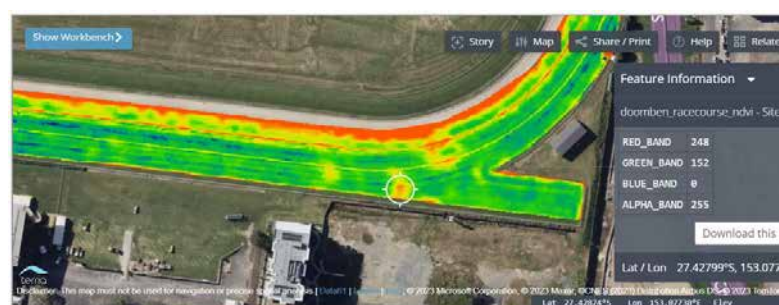
Both technologies, NDVI and DNA, will be offered to market through current traditional means so everyone can get access to them.

Q. Will this technology be available in all Australian states?

Once these are released we are then moving onto testing our next digital and sensor offerings. The digital turf sector will grow and we look forward to contributing further to it. At Syngenta we are very aware of the need to use data to gain improved insights into horticultural systems, that allows us to do more with less, provide improved products and turf surfaces for our customers that are seeking continual improvement from our Industry. 🌱

Irrigation Head Fault Detection

When we were in the early development stage we ... imaged a well known racetrack. A spot showed up on the course proper near a jump out on the home straight which the track manager pointed at. Our technology helped to identify an irrigation head fault before it was visible.





Celebrating Retirement

Not all turf farm stories start with the passing of the batten from one generation to the next. For some farms, their story is a tale of serendipitous opportunity that develops into a surprising full-circle journey so worth walking. The Westland Turf story is exactly that for brothers Con, Peter and Sam Paino...

"It all started 40 years ago in 1984 with the clearing of our Father's investment block located south of Perth in Wattleup," Con tells. "After years of getting fines for not burning off back in the day, the family decided it was time to clear the land and develop it into a farm."

At the time the three Paino brothers were builders and their landscaper, Harley Sears, asked if he could lease the land and start up a turf farm.

"We thought it was a great idea, and this allowed us to utilise the family land as well," Con said. "...and Westland Turf was born."

After a few years the business was growing and the market-garden next door (noticing Westland's success) approached the brothers to join forces, utilising the neighbouring land to expand the farm.



(Above left to right): Con, Peter and Sam Paino, and their wives at their family retirement party recently and (top): the Paino extended family gather in celebration.

Soon, even the expansion was not enough to keep up with demand. At this time Harley decided to separate his portion of the farm and launched Betta Turf. Con, Peter and Sam, in search of expansion opportunities, were approached to buy an existing turf farm located North of Perth in Bullsbrook. They purchased Perth Turf Supplies soon after.

“A few years later, we purchased the remaining 50% thinking ‘How hard could it be to run a turf business? We can build houses so this should be easy!’ – We soon learnt how much effort is required running both the building and turf businesses simultaneously.”

“Perth Turf Supplies was owned by Tony Demasi the Turf Growers Association WA Secretary. The plan was to have two farms – one north and one south – to simplify logistics,” said Con. “In 1992 we purchased a parcel of land with Harley and owned a 50% share in the business.”

“A few years later, we purchased the remaining 50% thinking ‘How hard could it be to run a turf business? We can build houses so this should be easy!’ – We soon learnt how much effort is required running both the building and turf businesses simultaneously.”

The business continued to expand operation, leasing adjoining blocks, but the brothers observed a changing market, and realised the need to diversify and grow better, more profitable varieties. In 1999 they acquired licenses and started growing Palmetto Buffalo, followed by Empire Zoysia, Empress Zoysia and Sapphire Buffalo. They established a display centre and a dedicated sales office in Booragoon, which became their base of operation.



Con (left) and Peter Paino at a Turf Growers Association WA field day.

... a new chapter for Westland

The brothers found their niche in the market by supplying and installing these newer varieties. Around 30% of the turf Westland produced, they also installed. Most projects involved the replacement of older lawns for customers preferring the new varieties.

“Our older brother, Sam, and long-time employee Daniel were our sales representatives – on the road quoting. We had two very busy teams of installers and subcontractors too,” Con explained. “I looked after production and managed the farms, while Peter was in charge of administration and the sales office.”

With the business continuing to grow, the brothers joined the Turf Growers Association WA (TGAWA). “This was a great help being relatively new to the industry. We felt incredibly supported by the

Continued...



Celebrating Retirement ... a new chapter for Westland

network of growers and other turf industry members. If we got stuck with a problem on the farm, experienced a machinery breakdown or needed general advice, we knew another grower would come to our aid," said Peter.

Over the years, the brothers developed wonderful relationships with the members, and before long became more involved in the Association with Peter taking on the Treasurer role, and Con appointed Vice Chair – a role he kept for a number of years.

"It has been an absolute privilege to work with Eva Ricci and the growers, and we have formed great friendships while all working together for the good of the industry," Con said. "We have been blessed to have Eva as part of our industry – we love her and she has done so much for the turf industry both locally in WA, and nationally."

"None of our children have chosen to continue the business, so it is time for us to wind down and enjoy the fruits of all the hard work over the past 40 years."

After 40 years in production, the Paino brothers are hanging up their boots as they look forward to retirement.

"None of our children have chosen to continue the business, so it is time for us to wind down and enjoy the fruits of all the hard work over the past 40 years."

In a fitting final chapter, Westland has come full circle and has been sold to Betta Turf – their neighbours Glen & Josh.

When asked about the greatest highlights as a grower, Con said: "We were able to attend a number of interstate and overseas conferences, field days and met many fellow growers – making some lasting friendships along the way."

"If we could give advice to the future generation of turf farmers, we would tell them to not sell their turf too cheap," Peter added. "Turf growers work hard, multi-tasking and often risking financial stress – their turf should be priced accordingly."



"We would tell young growers to employ good sales staff with the ability to relate to customers. It is important to grow a good product and to focus on customer service – reputation really is key. Most customers will be willing to pay a fair price. Sell less turf for a higher price, and value add; Sell licenced varieties as these offer a better return, and finally...work on your business, not for your business," said Peter.

Though the brothers feel sad to be leaving the industry that they grew very fond of, they take with them lifelong friendships and look forward to travelling and enjoying the little things in life with their eight children, and ten grandchildren collectively. 🌿



(Above left to right): Graeme Ferguson, Eva Ricci and Con Paino at the Perth Garden Festival in 2015, celebrating their Bronze Prize win.



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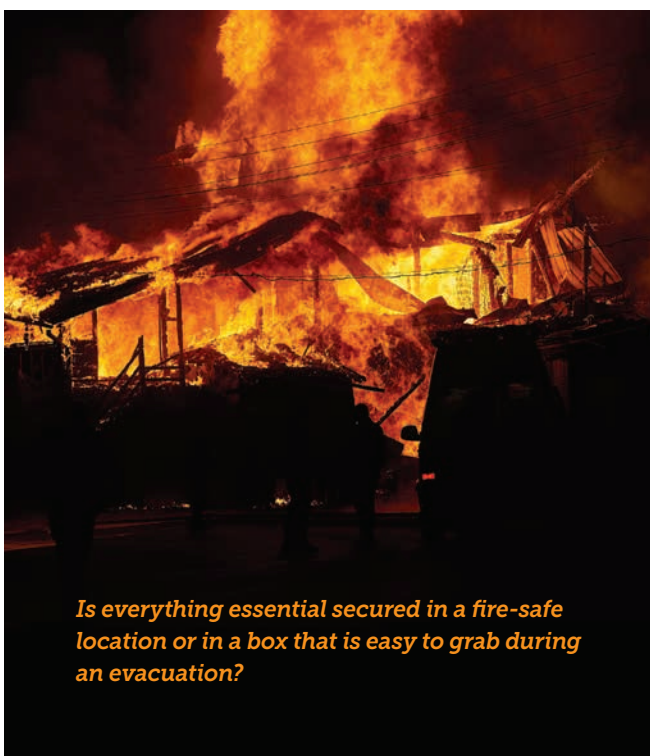
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Bushfire Season is here

... is your farm prepared?



Is everything essential secured in a fire-safe location or in a box that is easy to grab during an evacuation?

Fire services nationally respond to between 45,000 and 60,000 bushfires each year, and the impact can be extensive and devastating. This time of year, emergency services are on high alert as every bushfire has the potential to cause catastrophic loss.

Things to consider:

In the event of a fire, all aspects of your farm operation should be considered.

- Do you have measures in place to ensure the safety of family members, employees and visitors to your property?
- Where will you go for safety in the event of a bushfire?
- What is your plan for pets and livestock?
- What is contained in homes, offices, sheds, workshops and accommodation on your property?
- Is everything essential secured in a fire-safe location or in a box that is easy to grab during an evacuation?
- Do you have a plan for machinery, vehicles, equipment and fuel stocks?
- Is your insurance up to date? Are you insured for the correct amount? Does your policy cover bushfire?

A checklist of key preparations in case of a bushfire:

PREPARE A PLAN:

- Establish a list of actions in order of priority that must take place upon news of a fire risk.
- Plan the direction of evacuation from the property considering every possible fire direction.
- Practice the plan with staff and family and ensure that everyone on the property is aware of the fire protocol.
- Drawing up a map of your farm clearly indicating water source locations, roads and exits is useful. (See links to online Fire Plan tools for your state.)

REDUCE FUEL:

- Ensure that paddocks and open areas are maintained and any highly flammable plant varieties and ground level fuel sources removed.

ENSURE ACCESS:

- Do fire services have clear access to your property and water sources like dams?
- If you have a large property with several gates, consider signage for emergency services, or the preparation of a 'fire plan tube' containing property maps posted at each entrance.

CHECK EQUIPMENT:

- If your plan is to stay and defend, has your property been assessed by your local fire brigade to ensure your equipment, systems and defence strategy is adequate in the event of a bushfire?
- Are your pumps and hoses in working order?
- Do not rely on water from taps in case of bushfire – what are your alternative sources of water?

PREPARE AN EMERGENCY 'GRAB & GO' BOX:

- Consider a box containing important documents, hard drives, photos, valuables and medications.
- Portable radio, torch and batteries, drinking water, first aid kit (with eye drops or goggles in case of heavy smoke), fire extinguishers, knapsack sprayers, protective clothing, gloves, towels and woollen blankets are all items recommended by fire emergency services.
- An overnight bag with spare clothes and personal items in case your property is not accessible immediately post-fire.

STAY INFORMED:

- In case of a bushfire alert, stay up to date with the latest information and follow changes in wind and weather conditions to make informed decisions about next steps.
- Always follow directions from emergency services.
- Make decisions and act swiftly – delay could be deadly.

Your state-based 'Bushfire Plan' resources

Each state has prepared a quick and user-friendly **Fire Plan tool**, prompting community members and businesses to follow the step-by-step guide to prepare a survival plan for their property. Many useful resources are available on these sites.

Visit your state authority fire plan website to put a Fire Plan in place for your farm today:

Western Australia

www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au



New South Wales

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/resources/bush-fire-survival-plan



Queensland

www.qld.gov.au/emergency/dealing-disasters/disaster-types/bushfires/bushfire-prepare



Victoria

www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/before-and-during-a-fire/your-bushfire-plan



Tasmania

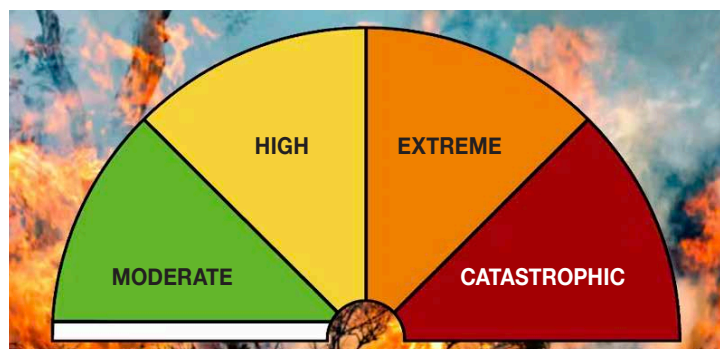
www.bushfire.tas.gov.au/my-bushfire-plan



The updated Australian Fire Danger Rating System

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System (AFDRS) is an Australia-wide standard for Fire Danger Ratings. These ratings are used on days when there is a risk of fire, and action needs to be taken by local communities to remain safe. The higher the fire danger, the more dangerous the conditions and the greater the consequences if a fire starts.

The AFDRS was updated to have more simplified ratings, and clear instructions for communities under each classification:



MODERATE	HIGH
PLAN and prepare	Be ready to ACT
EXTREME	CATASTROPHIC
TAKE ACTION NOW to protect life and property	For you SURVIVAL, LEAVE bushfire risk areas

turftalk

INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATE TURF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

NATALIE SCALISI
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
TURF QUEENSLAND

TurfQLD
GROW GREEN

2024 Turf Queensland Year in Review: a commitment to growth, resilience, and biosecurity

Turf Queensland has had a remarkable year filled with dedication to growth, innovation, and a renewed focus on industry resilience. Through strategic partnerships and vital programs, we've made significant strides in strengthening the turf industry in Queensland. This year, we've addressed the pressing challenges posed by pests, supported growers affected by movement restrictions, and delivered comprehensive resilience programs — all while fostering a sense of community among turf growers statewide. Here's a look at what Turf Queensland has achieved this year.

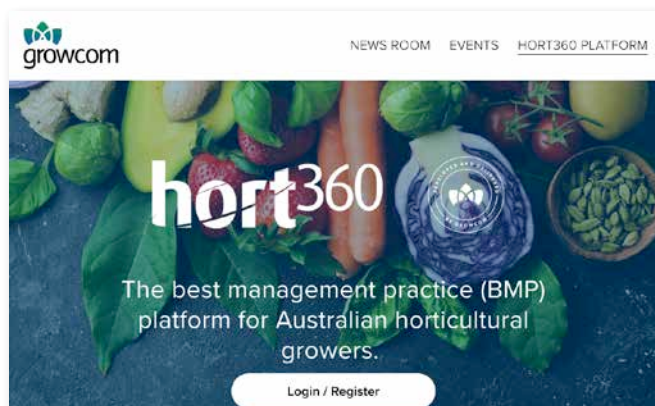
Through strategic partnerships and vital programs, we've made significant strides in strengthening the turf industry in Queensland.

Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) management and biosecurity efforts

One of the year's highest priorities for Turf Queensland has been addressing the increasing risks of Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) infestations. With NSW Government's treatment mandates for turf growers sending turf across the border, our focus has been on educating growers and implementing effective biosecurity practices. Collaborating with DPI, DAF the National Red Imported Fire Ant Program, we've worked diligently to provide awareness initiatives aimed at helping growers understand the threats of RIFA and comply with regulatory requirements.

Integrating TAP into Hort360: what it means for Queensland Turf Growers

In a milestone development for the Queensland turf industry, Turf Queensland secured significant funding from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) this year to integrate the Turf Accreditation Program (TAP) into the Hort360 Best Management Practice (BMP) platform. This initiative represents a transformative step toward elevating industry standards and providing growers with a comprehensive tool to enhance sustainability, efficiency, and profitability in their operations.



What is Hort360?

Hort360 is Queensland's horticultural BMP program, designed to help growers assess and improve their practices across various domains, from water and nutrient management to workplace health and safety. By providing a structured, user-friendly platform, Hort360 allows growers to benchmark their practices, identify areas for improvement, and develop tailored strategies to enhance productivity and sustainability. For turf growers, having TAP embedded within this platform means they'll have direct access to guidelines, metrics, and resources that are specifically tailored to their industry's unique needs.

The Turf Accreditation Program (TAP): enhancing industry standards

TAP has long been a cornerstone for turf growers who seek to achieve excellence in production, environmental stewardship, and industry compliance. By adhering to TAP guidelines, growers ensure they meet high standards in biosecurity, pest management, and environmental responsibility. With the integration of TAP into Hort360, these standards are now more accessible than ever, empowering growers to achieve accreditation while benefiting from the additional support and resources the Hort360 platform provides.

What this means for Turf Growers

For turf growers across Queensland, this integration opens up numerous advantages. Here's how it benefits the industry:

- 1. Streamlined Access to Best Management Practices:** Through Hort360, growers can seamlessly access TAP standards and resources in one place, simplifying the process of implementing and maintaining best management practices. This consolidation saves time and effort, making it easier for growers to stay up-to-date with best practices and regulatory requirements.
- 2. Customisable Farm Planning:** Hort360's interactive platform allows growers to customise their farm management plans according to TAP benchmarks. This feature offers growers the flexibility to adapt TAP standards to their unique operational needs, ensuring that each farm's approach to biosecurity, pest control, and environmental management is both practical and effective.
- 3. Benchmarking and Continuous Improvement:** One of Hort360's powerful tools is its benchmarking capability, which enables growers to assess their practices relative to industry standards and other accredited farms. This functionality promotes a culture of continuous improvement, encouraging turf farms to adopt the highest standards and refine practices over time.
- 4. Enhanced Biosecurity Measures:** Given the turf industry's exposure to biosecurity risks, particularly with challenges like the Red Imported Fire Ant, integrating TAP into Hort360 enhances access to critical biosecurity resources. Growers are better equipped to prevent, identify, and respond to biosecurity threats, protecting their crops and contributing to the overall resilience of Queensland's horticulture.
- 5. Increased Market Access and Credibility:** TAP accreditation is widely recognised as a mark of quality and responsibility. By making it more accessible through Hort360, growers can achieve accreditation more readily, boosting their marketability and credibility with clients who prioritise environmentally responsible suppliers.
- 6. Long-Term Financial Resilience:** Sustainable practices not only protect the environment but also contribute to long-term cost savings and resilience. Through the TAP standards embedded in

Hort360, growers gain insights into efficient water and nutrient use, pest control, and waste management, all of which help to optimise costs and create more resilient businesses.

Looking to the future

The integration of TAP into Hort360 is a significant step toward empowering Queensland's turf industry to thrive in a future where sustainability and resilience are paramount. With TAP now part of Hort360, Turf Queensland is helping growers build businesses that are not only productive but also responsible and resilient. This new resource ensures our industry can meet emerging environmental and biosecurity challenges with confidence, benefiting both individual growers and the broader community.

Turf Queensland is excited to see the positive impact this integration will have on our members. By combining the strengths of TAP and Hort360, we're paving the way for a stronger, more sustainable future for Queensland's turf industry.

Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP): empowering Growers

A major highlight of 2024 has been Turf Queensland's involvement in the Farm Business Resilience Program (FBRP), which we deliver in partnership with the Queensland Farmers' Federation (QFF) and the Queensland State Government. This initiative has been especially successful in engaging growers, providing them with tools and knowledge to navigate the challenges of modern turf farming.

Financial Support: Farm Debt Recovery Assistance Program

Economic resilience has been another key focus area this year, with Turf Queensland's involvement in the Farm Debt Recovery Assistance Program. We understand that financial pressures can be a significant barrier to growth and innovation for turf farmers. This program is designed to provide tailored assistance to those facing debt-related challenges, helping them overcome financial obstacles and stabilize their operations.

The Farm Debt Recovery Assistance Program has been well-received, offering critical support to growers in need and ensuring they have access to resources that can help them maintain their business and livelihoods. By addressing debt concerns, this program fosters a stronger, more sustainable industry where growers can focus on quality, innovation, and growth without the constant burden of financial strain.

Queensland Road Show

On Tuesday, September 24th, Turf Queensland hosted a highly successful Field Day at Go Turf, bringing together 19 farms for an informative and action-packed event. Following the Field Day, 14 farms continued the conversation at the Industry Social in the evening, making it a day full of learning, networking, and celebrating the turf industry.

The event was a massive hit, thanks to the valuable support of our generous sponsors: Trimax Mowing Systems, Swarm Farm Robotics, Flinders Agriculture, Greenway Turf Solutions, Living Turf, Fieldquip, and Turfware. These sponsors not only provided crucial insights and live demonstrations throughout the day, but they also covered the costs for farms to attend—allowing growers to access this invaluable information without added financial pressure.

Looking ahead

As we wrap up an eventful year, Turf Queensland is already planning for 2025, with a continued focus on biosecurity, financial resilience, and young grower development. Our achievements this year have laid a strong foundation for future growth and resilience. With unwavering commitment, we look forward to building an even stronger and more united turf industry in Queensland.

This year's accomplishments underscore Turf Queensland's dedication to supporting the industry through collaboration, innovation, and proactive problem-solving. With a year filled with successful initiatives and programs, we are excited to build on this momentum and look forward to a brighter future for Queensland's turf industry.

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Attendees at the successful Turf Queensland Paddock to Pitch Field Day 2024 held July 2024 at Wild Horse Turf, Glass House Mountains.

turftalk

INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATE TURF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

EVA RICCI
TURF INDUSTRY OFFICER
TURF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Turf WA
GROW GREEN

In September 2024, The Turf Growers Association WA joined with the Sports Turf Association (WA) to host a free educational event for members and guests of the WA Turf Industry at the new Sam Kerr Football Centre in Queens Park.



The “Future in Turf Seminar” attracted 80 delegates, which was exactly as hoped for. It was great to see the number of delegates from all sectors of the WA Turf Industry in attendance. As always, we are blessed to have great support for events such as this.



Huge thanks to our presenters, without whom we would not have had this seminar. Grateful thanks to:

1. Professor Maria Ignatieva, University of Western Australia School of Design, Discipline of Landscape Architecture

Topic: Lawn as a Social and Cultural Phenomenon in Perth, Western Australia



A research project, to explore the sociological aspects of urban lawns in Perth, including public perceptions and innovative approaches like the “blended model” for urban lawns. www.research-repository.uwa.edu.au/en/persons/maria-ignatieva

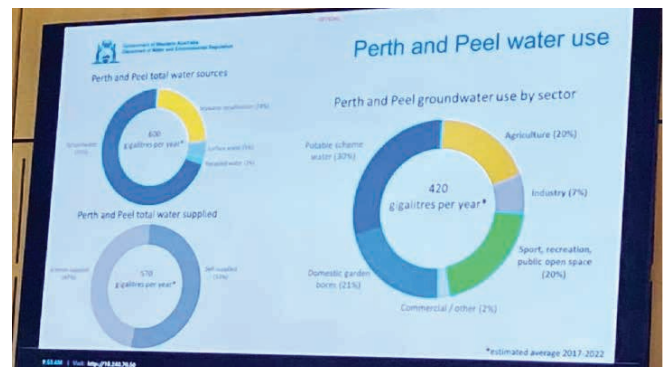
2. Monina Gilbey, and Kate Torgerson, Torgerson and Gilbey.

Topic: Sustainability and Environmental Management in Turf

Presentation of case studies on sustainable and biodiverse sports turf surrounds, including golf courses, playing fields, and schools. www.torgersengilbey.com.au and Instagram- [@torgersengilbey](https://www.instagram.com/torgersengilbey).

3. Daniel Ferguson, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, Water Services Manager

Topic: Groundwater Levels in Perth and Peel



Update on groundwater levels, water reductions, and challenges facing turf management in WA. www.wa.gov.au/organisation/departments-of-water-and-environmental-regulation

4. Dr Sally Thompson, UWA Centre for Water and Spatial Science, Ecohydrologist

Topic: Plants, Water, and Ecosystems

Insights into the impacts of environmental changes on water cycles and ecosystems in WA. www.sallyethompson.com/about-the-ecohydrology-group

5. Nathan Tovey, TurfBreed, Turf Industry Expert

Topic: IronCutter™ Hybrid Bermudagrass

Insights about and introduction of IronCutter™ Hybrid Bermudagrass and its suitability for Australian conditions. www.turfbreed.com.au/nathan-tovey-a-lifetime-in-turf/

6. Michael Sutton, Lawn Solutions Australia and AUSGAP

Topic: TifTuf Hybrid Bermudagrass



Insights about and introduction of on TifTuf Hybrid Bermuda, and its suitability for Australian Conditions. www.lawnsolutionsaustralia.com.au/grass-type/tiftuf/

Thank you also to Green By Nature for the tour of the Sam Kerr Football Centre. This was an insightful first for most in attendance.

Special thanks to Chris Langsford (President) and Anthony Guy (Treasurer), from the Sports Turf Association (WA) for your leadership on the day. We all respect such leadership and direction on busy days like this.

The feedback on the event has been extremely positive. People are talking and that's what we aim for! Healthy discussion on matters of importance for the industry.

Thank you, WA Turf Industry! You're amazing. So proud of this industry.

TGAWA AGM

Immediately after the industry event, the Turf Growers Association WA held their Annual General Meeting at the Sam Kerr Football Centre.



The committee remains the same, with (left to right above) Darren Kirkwood, (West Coast Turf), as Chairperson, Terry Sellick (Lawn Doctor), Vice Chairperson, Lara Lovegrove, Treasurer, and long-term committee member, Tony Demasi (Permanent Brook Turf), remaining in the Secretary's role.

Thank you to all our members who could attend on the day. Good on you. Of course, not everyone can attend these occasions, especially our regional members. However, I want to give a big shout out to all TGAWA members, every single one of you makes life so much easier with your support of the TGAWA.

All loyal and committed members who pay voluntary research, development and marketing levy to the association each quarter, and have done for years now. Such a mature, unique and sustainable model to survive as an association. No reliance on government funding, self-sustaining, and innovative always. It's such a terrific model.

We are only a small association here in WA, and getting smaller as some of our long term members head towards their 70's and retirement. But we are a great little association. We make a difference, we advocate for green spaces all the time, we are influential, and we're taken seriously when we speak up.

We have turned foe into friend, more than a few times, and converted the supposedly unconvertable! Now to move forward into 2025 and hopefully more achievements than missed opportunities.

Member gratitude and farewell

This year we saw the Paino brothers, Peter, Con and Sam sell their business to Betta Turf and retire. Peter and Con have been on the TGAWA committee forever, holding the Treasurer and Vice Chairperson's role for an extended period of time. Peter oversaw the family businesses in the main office in the city, Con ran the two turf farms, Perth Turf in the north and Westland Turf in the south of Perth. Sam ran the landscaping side of the business and was always busy on the road, quoting jobs and managing his installers.

Our monthly, then bi-monthly meetings, for years, have been held around their board room table at the Westland Turf main office in Booragoon. The generosity, commitment to and support of the TGAWA, from the Paino boys, has been second to none.

Con has been my partner in crime at every event the TGAWA has been represented at, or assisted with. From the Perth Garden Festival (PGF), to Water Week at the Water Corporation and our Lawn Expo's, to filming out turf installation and irrigation videos, and so much more. He has built frames for turf displays, stands for advertising products, and once we even made a bed out of turf to display at the PGF. He

has put himself out time and time again for the industry, always on a voluntary basis, and always with a big grin on his face, motivated, and working until he's ready to drop.

There's been a couple of times where we dropped together! Rolling up a few hundred square metres of turf, and loading them up by hand, after four days on the ground at the PGF, is one occasion that comes to mind. We were stuffed after that. Then along came Darren Kirkwood, 15-20 years younger than us and he was moving like a trojan. Trying to keep up was the initial response, but I have to tell you after about half an hour of that, I was crawling, and poor old Con wasn't far behind! Bloody nearly died that day!

Con and I have shared more laughs than not, and even a few tears. My husband and I are so pleased to call him and his wife Lucy, friends. Con has the biggest, softest heart and a kindness like no other. He has been a rock for me in my role over the past twenty years with the TGAWA. I miss him already.

I will also miss personally my one on one times with Peter, rebuilding our constitution, going over finances, and organising events. Peter is one of life's true gentlemen. Quietly spoken, always smiling, with a big heart and kind soul. These boys were brought up extremely well, I have to tell you. The entire family is the same. Again, Ivan and I are pleased to count Peter and his wife Gina, as friends too. I will miss that steady as you go personality, that never gets phased, is always calm and solid as a rock, in my role.



Sam, Con and Peter Paino celebrating their retirement with Westland Turf staff.

***Thank you for the memories Peter, Con and Sam.
We couldn't have done the hard yards without you.***

It's been a sad day for all our members too! The Paino's are highly and fondly regarded by all. It was decided at our last general meeting that they will be formally bestowed Life Membership of the TGAWA, early in the New Year, as a mark of of gratitude for their dedication to the association and more importantly the wider WA turf industry.

With our small group of only 15 members, our association is tight knit and committed to supporting each other. Con and Peter in particular, have always been friends to all. They have a special place in everyone's heart, of this I am sure. We hope to see them attend the occasional meeting, if so inclined, but certainly they will always be invited to any special occasions we might share.

Thank you for the memories Peter, Con and Sam. We couldn't have done the hard yards without you. Your turf farming journey was a ripper one. May retirement be everything you have wished it to be. You deserve only the very best. Rest, eat, drink, travel, experience everything you can, while you can.

Cheers to you all and your families. You're the best.

For further information on happenings in WA, please contact Eva Ricci on 0422 120 990 or eva.ricci@turfwa.com.au

turftalk

INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATE TURF INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS

JENNY ZADRO
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
TURF GROWERS ASSOCIATION
OF NSW INC. (TURF NSW)



Happy New Year to everyone. We hope the new year sees an uplift in market conditions following a slow spring and early summer, likely due to the ongoing cost-of-living pressures impacting consumer spending. The consensus from growers was that sales remained steady during this period, but they would have liked to see more trucks leaving the farm loaded with turf.



For Turf NSW, the second part of 2024 continued with a flurry of activity. In August, we hosted our Annual General Meeting dinner at Riverside Oaks Golf Resort, with 55 attendees. The evening featured presentations on project outcomes and a review of the year's achievements, as well as a guest presentation by Lucy Noble from Hort Innovation on turf levy initiatives.

During the AGM, we elected our Board for the upcoming year, welcoming two new members: Jess Micallef and Ben Muscat. The 2024-2025 Board includes:

- President: Troy Franks, Dad & Dave's Turf
- Vice President: Patrick Muscat, Musturf
- Treasurer: Anthony Muscat, Greener Lawn Turf Supplies
- General Board: Joshua Muscat, Greenlife Turf; Jessica Micallef, Abulk Turf; Ben Muscat, Greenway Turf Supplies

European Turf Producers Farm Tour – Rome October 2024, Beccia Prati Turf Farm.



We extend special thanks to Paul Saad, who has stepped down from the Board after many years of dedicated service. Paul has been deeply committed to both Turf NSW and the broader turf industry, and we are immensely grateful for his time and contributions. Additionally, we thank Dave Raison for his efforts over the years, as he also steps down from the Board.

Our flood project work has yielded some valuable outcomes for the industry, focusing on lessons learned and insights gained. A comprehensive resource library will serve future generations. In addition, two ongoing projects aim to promote turf use: an erosion control demonstration site at Richmond and a riverbank restoration at Freemans Reach. These initiatives, modelled after successful sites in Queensland, will be promoted to various industries, planners, and developers to support future turf sales. The Local Land Services Demonstration Farm at Richmond will host the erosion control site in collaboration with the International Erosion Control Australasia association.

The Turf Industry Transport Safety Program has also concluded, developing transport mass management guidelines for the industry. Several workshops were held to share this information, and all Turf Australia members should have received the NHVR Load Restraint Guidelines. Instructional videos on the guidelines are available on the Turf NSW website.

Turf NSW would like to acknowledge Turf QLD's important work on biosecurity, particularly around the impact of Imported Red Fire Ants, which pose a serious threat to growers in Queensland and Northern NSW. We urge all growers to stay informed about fire ant regulations when transporting turf from these affected areas.

In October I had the opportunity to join the European Turf Producers Farm Tour in Rome while overseas. It was an incredible experience connecting with over 200 turf producers from around the world, visiting two farms and the Olympic Stadium, which now features an Australian couch grass.

On behalf of the Board of Turf NSW, I would like to wish everyone a happy, healthy, and successful new year ahead, and I look forward to connecting with our members in 2025..

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Riverbank Restoration Project underway.

DAVID REID
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
VICTORIA



Greening the Garden State: a roadmap for a greener Victoria

In response to the escalating challenges associated with urban heat, biodiversity loss, and population growth, Nursery and Garden Industry Victoria (NGIV) partnered with Mosaic Insights to develop Greening the Garden State: A Roadmap to a Greener Victoria. This comprehensive report, summarised below, outlines the urgent need for expanding our urban greening across Victoria and presents a strategic framework to create cooler, healthier, and more resilient urban environments.



The case for urban greening

Victoria, celebrated for its lush parks and tree-lined streets, faces increasing pressures from climate change and urban development. Urban areas, particularly Melbourne, are experiencing rising temperatures due to the “urban heat island” effect, which intensifies during heatwaves. Heat exposure is already a significant health risk, responsible for more deaths than any other natural disaster in Australia. By expanding green spaces, Victoria can lower surface and air temperatures, improve community health, protect biodiversity, and deliver economic benefits.

1. Environmental and Health Benefits

The practice of urban greening cools cities by providing shade and facilitating evapotranspiration, reducing temperatures by up to 2–5°C in shaded areas. This cooling effect is particularly beneficial for vulnerable populations, including the elderly, reducing heat-related illness and mortality. Additionally, green spaces encourage outdoor physical activity, fostering better mental health and reducing the prevalence of obesity-related diseases.

Green infrastructure also enhances air quality by filtering pollutants, mitigates stormwater runoff, and strengthens mental well-being. Studies show that people living in green neighbourhoods experience lower psychological distress and fewer health issues. Expanding Victoria’s backyards, turfed areas, tree canopies and understory plantings can thus significantly contribute to healthier, more sustainable urban living.

2. Biodiversity Preservation

Urban development often fragments and degrades habitats critical for native flora and fauna. The roadmap emphasises the importance of biodiversity-rich urban areas, noting that tree canopies of at least 30% can significantly bolster ecosystems, supporting various species and improving ecosystem services like pest regulation and pollination. The report calls for strategic restoration efforts to prevent further biodiversity loss, promoting habitats that can support a range of species.

3. Economic Rationale

Investment in urban greening is economically sound, with studies showing a return of approximately four dollars for every dollar spent. Benefits include carbon sequestration, reduced energy costs for cooling, increased property values, and decreased infrastructure maintenance costs. The roadmap encourages policymakers to recognise urban greening as essential infrastructure, warranting investment comparable to other public services.

Challenges and Key Recommendations

Despite its benefits, Victoria’s green spaces are declining. The roadmap identifies critical challenges and opportunities to increase urban greening. Some of the primary obstacles include inconsistent targets across local councils, workforce shortages, inadequate

planning regulations, and limited funding. The roadmap outlines several key actions:

- 1. Setting Targets and Accountability:** Establish measurable, time-bound targets for urban greening across all councils, aiming for a minimum 30% tree canopy cover in urban areas. This includes tracking progress through a consistent reporting framework. An urban canopy target supports increased understory plantings and expanded turfed areas, fostering a sense that green spaces are vital and valued within our community.
- 2. Expanding Skills and Resources:** With workforce shortages in the horticultural and arboricultural sectors, there is an urgent need to train professionals capable of supporting ambitious greening projects. The roadmap proposes establishing a Horticultural Centre of Excellence (see link) to build industry skills and increase the availability of suitable plant species.
- 3. Incorporating Greening in Urban Planning:** Urban planning must prioritise green space in both new developments and urban densification projects. This involves mandating sufficient plantable space, soil depth, and irrigation systems to sustain large canopy trees. Revised guidelines for greenfield developments, including wider nature strips and dedicated space for trees in streetscapes, can help ensure that green spaces grow alongside residential expansion.
- 4. Funding and Incentives:** Sustainable funding models are crucial for urban greening projects. The roadmap suggests creating incentives, such as reduced land tax for retaining or planting trees on private property, alongside government grants for greening initiatives. This financial support could be especially beneficial in high-priority areas vulnerable to extreme heat and biodiversity loss.
- 5. Enhanced Coordination Among Stakeholders:** Effective urban greening requires collaboration across multiple levels of government, including state agencies, local councils, and community organisations. The roadmap recommends forming a Ministerial Advisory Council to unify urban greening efforts, streamline decision-making, and ensure cohesive implementation of greening strategies.

Planning and design innovations

In response to population growth and the demand for housing, the roadmap emphasises the need to rethink urban design. Compact, high-density cities often lack green space, resulting in higher temperatures and less canopy cover. To address this, the roadmap advocates for innovative design practices that incorporate green infrastructure into urban areas. This includes creating “green streets” with shaded pathways, enhancing green roofs and walls, and preserving mature trees on private land.

Future vision

Ultimately, Greening the Garden State envisions a Victoria where urban greening is integral to city planning, resulting in cooler, more liveable, and ecologically rich communities. The roadmap calls for a shift in mindset, treating green infrastructure as essential for public health, environmental resilience, and economic prosperity. By committing to these goals, Victoria can transform its urban landscapes, fostering sustainable spaces that benefit all Victorians and future generations.

The document has been received well by Victorian Government who have had numerous meetings with NGIV and the report’s author in the lead up to their release of Plan Victoria.

Scan the QR code to read the full report or visit ngiv.com.au.

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Your membership matters.

Turf Australia is committed to support its members, no matter how big or small your turf farm is. We are continuing to look for opportunities to increase the benefits of your membership. Your membership matters.

Achievements (last 12 months):

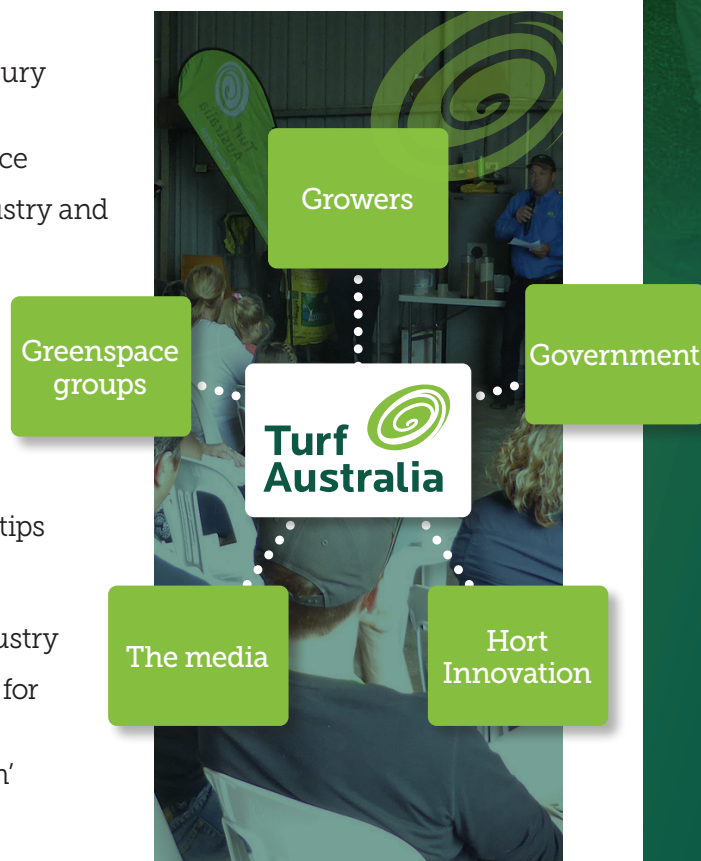
- Flood recovery program in the NSW Hawkesbury region
- Sustainable Turf Farming / National Conference
- Continued member advocacy within the industry and Government

Connecting our members:

- Membership of the National Farmers Federation, Hort Council
- Partnering with organisations for improved business management and farm safety
- Weekly 'Toolbox Talks' for business efficiency tips

Our plans (next 12 months):

- Putting the 'care factor' back into the Turf Industry
- Working with Hort Innovation to add projects for future benefit
- Focus on providing our growers with 'on-farm' support to help growers save time and money



Members of Turf Australia receive immediate access to the following benefits:

Free classified advertising through our Website and ENews	✓
Exclusive offers for marketing support	✓
Use of TA membership branding	✓
Turf Australia Toolbox Talks	✓
Support, guidance and advocacy on a range of farming related issues	✓

Renew or join today to ensure you are represented:
www.turfaustralia.com.au

Your membership matters.

Turf Australia
GROW GREEN

For more information contact:

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