



AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
AGRICULTURAL CONSULTANTS
WESTERN AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED

Professional Development Field Trip for Members

Thursday 16th & Friday 17th September, 2021
Merredin and Eastern Wheatbelt

PROGRAM (Draft)

Thursday 16 September 2021

10.30am		Self-drive to Merredin (<i>also option to catch Prospector Train – please note return timetable on 17 Sept. is mid-morning</i>) Meet Merredin – morning tea Merredin Ag Industry Overview	<i>Wild Poppy Café</i> 88 Barrack Street <i>Nic McGregor & Shane Sander, Agvise</i> <i>David Watson, AgAsset</i>
11.15am		Board Coach for Warakirri Cropping, 'Mawarra', Burracoppin	<i>Hendrik's Buses</i>
12.00pm		Tour of Mawarra Farms to include on farm liming, soil amelioration and other innovative farm practices <i>Mawarra is situated in the eastern wheatbelt region of Western Australia; approximately 30 kilometres east of Merredin and 300 kilometres east of Perth and is part of the Warakirri Cropping Group. Mawarra covers approximately 24,264 arable hectares. Average annual rainfall is around 300mm, with 70% falling during the crop growing season (April – October). Charlie will cover soil amelioration strategies, profitable break crops in the LRZ and controlled-traffic.</i>	<i>Charlie Watson (Manager)</i> 175 Hendrick Road <i>Muntadgin</i>
		Lunch on farm or bus	
2.00pm	2.30pm	Bus to Collgar Wind Farm	
2.30pm	3.30pm	Collgar Wind Farm <i>A renewable power project built over a land envelope of 18,000 hectares. With 111 Vestas V90 turbines the wind farm has a total power production capacity of 222 MW and generates between 630-750 GWh each year</i> <i>Ross will give us an overview of the history and establishment of the wind farm, outputs and targets, impact of wind farm on local region and agriculture, involvement between farmers (ag) and wind farm and expansion plans.</i>	<i>Ross Binning</i> Site Superintendent
3.30pm	5.00pm	DPIRD Trial sites tour (TBC)	<i>Greg Shea</i>
5.30pm		To accommodation	<i>Merredin Motel</i> <i>Merredin Tourist Village</i>
6.30pm		Drinks and Dinner <i>Guest Speaker: Rob Cossart (CEO, Wheatbelt Development Commission) – TBC</i>	<i>Merredin Recreation Centre (TBC)</i>

Friday 17 September 2021			
7.30am	8.30am	Breakfast	<i>Gumtree Restaurant – Merredin Motel</i>
8.30am	9.15am	AAAC(WA) Annual General Meeting	<i>Gumtree Restaurant</i>
9.15am		Self-drive to DPIRD conference room	
9.30am	10.15am	Federal Drought Fund – Adoption and Innovation Hubs Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>National Future Drought Fund program</i> • <i>Eight programs within the FDF program (as there are programs that will be relevant to consultants, their clients and communities)</i> • <i>Drought Resilience Adoption and Innovation Hubs (these are one of the FDF programs)</i> • <i>SW WA Hub</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Role of the Hub and in the context of GGA activities; Current Hub activities; How can the Hub engage effectively with AAAC and individual consultants; Hub staff and their roles</i> 	<i>Tanya Kilminster – GGA Drought Hub Knowledge Broker Tom Davidson – Hub Director</i>
10.15am	10.30am	Morning Tea	
10.30am	11.20pm	DPIRD Regenerative Ag Trials and Project overview Season opportunities, current wheat trial, future R&D and market opportunities for WA Wheat	<i>Caroline Peake /Greg Shea - DPIRD</i> <i>Dion Nicol - DPIRD</i>
11.30am	12.30pm	CBH Merredin – Tour and Presentation <i>CBH Area Manager Jerome O'Malley will give a site tour of the Merredin CBH facility. Not only is Merredin the biggest receival site in the Eastern Wheatbelt, but is also the gateway for nearly all grain grown from the Eastern Wheatbelt region. With Merredin CBH situated on the highly efficient Standard Gage, grain flows from south of Narembeen, north to Mukinbudin, east past Southern Cross and everywhere in between from growers and internal site transfers. Given the likelihood of a record crop to hit the bin this harvest from the area, it will be insightful to see the CBH plan to move this grain to port in a timely manner before the Northern Hemisphere crop comes available.</i>	<i>Jerome O'Malley CBH - Gaymenya Ave</i>
12.45pm	1.30pm	Lunch	<i>Venue TBA</i>
1.30pm		Site visit to MADFIG trial site or Sheep Property <i>Details for this still being finalised – site visit will be south of Merredin</i>	<i>Self-drive</i>
3.00pm		Travel home	