

# More expansion on the way for Pyrenees Hay

By Athos Sirianos

**ONE year after expanding operations into the Riverina, Pyrenees Hay has set its sights on further growth over the next 12 months.**

The company purchased a hay exporting plant in Griffith in late 2020 and, after a successful first year, is forecasting to process 60,000 tonnes of hay at the site in 2022, as well as producing more containers and increasing staff.

Pyrenees Hay acquired the plant and assets in Griffith after its Avoca site was one of 25 in Australia to lose its permit to export into China – something Griffith managed to maintain.

“Expanding into the Riverina is huge for us,” Pyrenees Hay General Manager, Julie Bartlett said.

“We went into Griffith looking to bring the machine down here, but because of the China situation, we left it up there and started March last year.

“We’ve gone from starting with four containers a day to averaging between nine and ten containers a day, so it’s a big change and a lot of hay.”

The Griffith plant is the only hay exporter

in New South Wales and presents Riverina growers an opportunity to sell Oaten Hay.

Pyrenees Hay acquired the assets from ex-NSW politician Daryl Maguire and owner of UWE enterprises, Jimmy Liu, which were up-for-sale after going into liquidation twice.

One of the company’s biggest objectives in acquiring the plant and its assets was resuscitating farming operations and grower confidence throughout the Griffith region.

This has included regular consultation with local farmers, who had lost faith in the Griffith plant’s previous administration.

Ms Bartlett, along with Hay/Grain Procurement and Agriculturist Erin Harvey, are considered trailblazers in the male-dominated industry, with the company hoping to see and attract more local female workers.

Ms Bartlett joined Pyrenees Hay in 2012 working in admin, before making her way up to the company’s General Manager.

“It’s very different from when I started. We were doing two shifts and I was doing 20 hours a week at the front desk and these days the phones just don’t stop,” she said.



General Manager Julie Bartlett and Agronomist Erin Harvey.

During the last few years, the group also has established a major grain receival, handling and export packing facility at Avoca.

Pyrenees Hay had been operating as a farmers co-op until it was taken over by private equity and a small group of farmers in 2016. The company also exports large amounts of lentils and grades of wheat throughout Asia.

## Truck collision along Pyrenees Highway

**SECTIONS of the Pyrenees Highway were forced to close on Tuesday after a truck collision near Amphitheatre.**

Authorities were called to the scene at around 3pm after a B-double truck, heading down the highway towards Maryborough, lost control crossing a bridge and ended up in a creek.

Damage was caused to side-barriers and while there was no visible damage to the road, rubble on the highway made it too dangerous for motorists to cross.

The driver escaped with no significant

injuries and was taken to hospital.

A VicRoads contractor also arrived to clear the rubble, with an engineer scheduled to inspect the damage to the bridge over the next few days.

Traffic was blocked at Elmhurst, as well as the Amphitheatre side of the highway.

This comes following significant rainfall across the Pyrenees this week.

Amphitheatre recorded 115 millimetres of rain, with Buangor and Avoca reporting 90 millimetres.



Victoria Police and Amphitheatre’s CFA brigade at the scene helping clear the rubble from the collision.

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