



# Superintendent Report

## November 2022



## Irrigation Installation

Waterland arrived on site early this month and the new irrigation system is currently being installed. They will be working until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in December and coming back early January. The intended completion date is mid-April 2023.

Installing the new system in the summer months creates an abundance of new maintenance challenges to the golf course. With the current weather events supply chain issues and price increases we felt that the sooner we can get the system in the better for The Club.

The aim is to install as much of the new system as possible without taking the old system offline before the New Year. The greens are the priority, so we need to make sure we have water to them as often as possible. Currently we still have water to almost all the greens. I anticipate that most of the fairways will get very dry over the summer months, you can expect to see them to turn brown, however, they won't take long to bounce back once irrigated.

The new irrigation system is a large financial investment for The Club. To help reduced the cost we will be assisting Waterland with Tura Beach staff members. This means that unfortunately, some areas around the golf course will have to suffer. With the wet months leading into summer, the rough will be growing rapidly and at times becoming very long. We will be relying on our exceptional volunteers to assist us with as much mowing as possible.

You will notice a lot of pipe and trenches around the golf course. These areas will all be played as G.U.R even though they **will not** be marked.

We also ask that you take extra care when driving around the golf course, the conditions have changed, and there may be open holes or new obstacles.

It is great to see people are very interested in the work that is going on around the course, but please observe from a distance. This is a construction site with some very large and dangerous machinery. The crew will be happy to retrieve your ball for you if it comes to rest in an area that they are working in.



## **Safety Management**

The maintenance department have recently enrolled as part of The Toolbox Team. The Toolbox Team is founded and owned by Ben Gibson. Ben has spent the last 10 years working in government and compliance management. He has experience training, auditing and coaching hundreds of businesses across the country. The Toolbox Team consults regularly with SafeWork Australia, state regulators and the EPA on a range of current industry trends. They have had a number of clients inspected and their compliance management endorsed by the regulator.

## **Fairways and Surrounds**

The heights on the fairways and surrounds have been lowered and will be lowered again in the next couple of weeks. This is to help cut out some of the thatch. You can expect to see some areas scalping over the next several weeks. We will not be renovating the fairways this year, this is a less labour-intensive option to help promote a more even playing surface. We will then raise the heights back up before the new year.

## **General Maintenance**

- Lime has been applied to the fairways to add calcium. This will help offset the sodium in the soil and assist in root development
- Tees have been sprayed with iron and a low rate of growth regulator
- Broad leaf weed spraying has continued around the course
- Bunkers have been whipper snipped, fly mowed and sprayed with a growth regulator
- Potholes on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> paths have been filled. Some paths still need more attention

## **Bowling Greens**

The bottom bowling green is back in play, we are happy with the recovery after renovations.

The top green will be out of play as of the 21/11/22. This should be for a period of around 4 weeks.

Brad Foster – Superintendent