

Chronology of the rural crisis, 1984-1994.

December 1983	The Australian dollar floated, and most foreign exchange controls removed (Battelino and McMillan, 1989)
August 1984	Deregulation of the Australian banking system. Removal of minimum and maximum terms on trading and savings bank deposits. Savings banks permitted to offer chequing facilities on all accounts. Limit of 60% on banks' equity in merchant banks lifted. (Battelino and McMillan, 1989)
February 1985	Sixteen foreign banks invited to commence business in Australia
May 31st., 1985.	Farmers' protest march and rally in Adelaide against fuel tax rises, vegetation clearance controls, federal pensioner assets tests and other government imposts.
Aug. 3-7, 1985	First good general rains for the year stave off drought fears for 1985/6 harvest
January 1986	Federal Rural Assistance Branch drought relief packages made available to farmers adjudged as "viable" at Penong and Ceduna meetings of 140 Far West Coast farmers
March 6th. 1986	Land prices reported in State parliament to have fallen 20-30% in last few months (Mr. D.S. Baker, Hansard 6.3.86, p. 1051)
April 9th. 1986	Existence of a rural crisis due to falling commodity prices and rising costs proclaimed in Eyre Peninsula local paper the "West Coast Sentinel".
April 18th., 1986	Farmers' demonstration in Adelaide for lower interest rates, removal of tariff burden on imported farm inputs, and restructuring of Australia's wage fixing system
August 1986	Uniting Church minister reports at three meetings (Ceduna, Kimba, and Cummins, Eyre Peninsula) that the rural crisis begins to produce stress with bouts of aggressive behaviour, listlessness, withdrawal, drinking, brooding and bad tempers (West Coast Sentinel, 13.8.86)
October 1986	Severe frost damage to cereal crops in flower in central Eyre Peninsula followed by State government assistance measures to affected farmers
February 26th. 1987	Leader of the Opposition warns of imminent financial collapse of large numbers of South Australian farmers (Mr. J. Olsen, Hansard 26.2.87, p. 3209)
March 2nd.-3rd. 1987	Prime Minister's Country Task Force visits Port Lincoln, Port Augusta and Ceduna to observe effects of rural crisis. Its report recommends no changes to existing rural assistance measures, but expresses concern that bank lending policies may have contributed to problems (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 2.4.87, p.1)
March 1987	State Minister of Agriculture Kym Mayes tours Eyre Peninsula to see crisis at first hand. During early 1987 several Eyre Peninsula communities form rural crisis committees. Rural counselling service begins, with Commonwealth funding. United Farmers and Stockowners of S.A. (U.F. & S.) conducts a State-wide rural crisis phone-in to gather evidence on the extent and nature of distress. Conference between banks and State Director of Agriculture to find ways of avoiding foreclosures on farm loans
April 1987	High wool prices provide a bright spot for farmers
October 1987	Recruiting drive for Roxby Downs development held amongst farmers of Eyre Peninsula (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 29.10.1987)
November 6th. 1987	Rising concern expressed about the adverse effects of publicity about the local rural crisis on Eyre Peninsula on investment in the region and the saleability of farms there (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 6.11.87, p. 2)
December 1987	Premier of South Australia, John Bannon, tours Eyre Peninsula to see crisis situation at first hand

January 1988	State Bank announces a scheme to allow farmers with at least 20% equity in their property to convert debt into equity units taken over by the bank, allowing farmer to carry on while avoiding crippling interest bills, with option to buy back the units later as position improved (The News, 14.1.1988)
March 1988	S.A. Minister for Agriculture, Kym Mayes, estimates 200 or about 10% of Eyre Peninsula farmers are in serious financial trouble (Hansard, 1.3.1988, p.3305)
April 16th. 1988	State Government announces \$5 million loan aid package for farmers at subsidised interest rate of 10%, targeted particularly toward Eyre Peninsula
July 5th. 1988	State Minister of Agriculture announces that \$15 million will be available in rural adjustment funds in 1988/9, a 50% rise on the preceding year (Advertiser, 6.7.88)
August 1988	Early rains give rise to optimism that the worst of the crisis is now over; higher world grain and wool prices promise a better season
September 1988	Devastating hot northerly winds destroy hopes of a reasonable harvest in most of Eyre Peninsula
October 1988	Further strong hot winds and sandblasting of remaining crops on Eyre Peninsula (Sunday Mail, 30.10.88) Loans at 8% interest rates made available to farmers deemed viable, to buy out others deemed non-viable
October 26th. 1988	State Minister of Agriculture, Kym Mayes, defends himself publicly against continuous criticism of his failure to declare a natural disaster on Eyre Peninsula (Advertiser, 26.10.88 and subsequently 1.11.88 and 21.11.88)
November 1st., 1988	Meeting at Chandada, Eyre Peninsula, forms the first radical Farmers Action Group under the leadership of Bill Carey and Jim Cronin, with one aim: "Every primary producer must be assisted to remain on their property, unless they voluntarily decide to leave" (Stock Journal 3.11.88; Cronin 1991, p. 12)
November 2nd. 1988	United Farmers and Stockowners propose a scheme for the donation of seed grain by South Australian farmers to allow West Coast farmers to plant a crop in 1989 (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 3.11.88)
November 3rd. 1988	Minister for Agriculture refuses to pay for water carting to keep nucleus of sheep flocks alive in area West of Ceduna (Stock Journal, 3.11.88)
November 3rd.-5th. 1988	Adelaide conference on "Greenhouse '88: Planning for Climatic Change" warns of potential southward movement of vegetation belts and wheat frontier by 2020 (Dendy, 1989)
November 7th. 1988	Strong hot northerly winds cause severe soil erosion and at least \$15m. damage to remaining barley crops on Yorke and Eyre Peninsulas (Advertiser, 9.11.88; West Coast Sentinel, 9.11.88)
November 10th. 1988	United Farmers and Stockowners present proposed debt relief plan to banks and State Government for farmers deemed viable (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 17.11.88)
November 12th. 1988	Farmers' Action Group mounts its first intimidatory action on potential bidders at a forced auction sale of a property at Cungena, ensuring that the property is passed in
November 15th. 1988	Crisis meeting in Adelaide between Farmers' Action groups, U.F.& S. and the State Premier and Ministers for Agriculture and Water Resources results in provision of water carting to Government tanks west of Ceduna (West Coast Sentinel, 16.11.88)
January 1989	Wool prices remain high and record wool export earnings are forecast (Advertiser, 6.1.89)
January 5th. 1989	Agriculture Minister announces breakdown of talks between the banks and financial institutions, the United Farmers and Stockowners and the State Government on emergency rural assistance measures. Banks reject proposal for cap on interest rates and set-aside of portion of debt (Advertiser, 6.1.89; Sunday Mail, 8.1.89)
January 13th., 1989	Farmers' Action Groups petition the Governor, Sir Donald Dunstan, to intervene with the State Government

January 1989	Drifting sand blocks roads in Franklin Harbour, Le Hunte and Murat Bay District Council areas
February 12th., 1989	Farmers' Action Group rally at Wudinna launches its "Bankwatch" campaign, calls on farmers to close accounts in targeted banks, starts information sharing on bank practices via a register of interest rates charged to individual farmers (West Coast Sentinel, 15.2.89) Some farmers claimed to be paying interest rates of up to 6.4% more than neighbours as an extra "risk loading" (Cronin 1991, p. 35)
February 14th. 1989	The Premier again declines to declare Eyre Peninsula a natural disaster area (Hansard, 14.2.89)
February 20th. 1989	Banks throughout Eyre Peninsula picketed by farmers (West Coast Sentinel, 22.2.89)
March 16th. 1989	Drought-breaking rainstorm causes severe soil erosion in eastern Eyre Peninsula (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 16.3.89)
March 20th.-22nd. 1989	Governor of South Australia tours drought stricken areas to meet community representatives (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 23.3.89)
April 1989	Carry-on finance refused by banks and Rural Assistance Branch to 220 Eyre Peninsula farmers (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 13.4.89) Others are granted carry-on finance only on condition that the farm be sold in August/September 1989 (Hansard, 5.4.89, p.2660)
April 13th. 1989	Farmers' Action Group organises an auction of surplus machinery at Wudinna to allow farmers to raise enough money for seeding the 1989 crop; \$600,000 raised (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 20.4.89)
May 6th. 1989	Further soil erosion damage from thunderstorms in eastern Eyre Peninsula (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 11.5.89)
May 1989	Good general opening rains received in all districts by the end of May
June 15th. 1989	Commonwealth Wheat Marketing Act assented to, deregulating the domestic wheat market while retaining the Australian Wheat Board's export monopoly
July 6th. 1989	Fund of \$2 million made available to assist rural non-farm businesses hit by drought in loans of up to \$75,000 per business at 8% interest (Eyre Peninsula Tribune, 6.7.89)
November/December 1989	Excellent harvest on Eyre Peninsula provides farmers with a reprieve but is inadequate to remove entrenched debt.(West Coast Sentinel, 29.11 and 20.12.89)
April-May 1990	Falling demand for wool results in a stockpile reaching 2.5 million bales bought in by Australian Wool Corporation to support the wool floor price at \$8.70/Kg
May 1990	Release of Drought Policy Review Task Force on national drought policy recommends against treating drought as a natural disaster, and move to self-reliant risk management approach (Drought Policy Review Taskforce, 1990)
May 5th. and 9th. 1990	Dust storms again engulf Adelaide (Advertiser, 5.5.90 and 10.5.90.) Concern mounts about the late arrival of opening rains for the 1990 cereal crops
July 1st 1990	Levy on wool growers raised from 10% to 20% to support wool floor price
August 1990	Iraqi invasion of Kuwait starts the first Gulf War. Complying with U.N. sanctions Australia suspends wheat shipments to Iraq, stopping S.A. trade which in 1989/90 amounted to 142,000 tonnes (Hansard, 7.8.90, p.49).
September 1990	Radical drop in the price of citrus fruit due to importation of Brazilian orange juice concentrate (Advertiser, 27.10.90)
October 1990	Simultaneous price drops for wheat, barley, wool, citrus fruit bring realisation that a national level rural crisis situation has developed. First harvest payment on wheat (\$95 per tonne, compared to \$156 in 1989) lowest for 40 years. Wool levy lifted from 20% to 25% (Advertiser, 4.10.90)
October 5th. 1990	Increasing attention paid to the role of a subsidisation war between the U.S.A. and the European Community resulting in subsidisation of wheat by up to \$95

- per tonne., plus the high value of the \$A, in reducing returns to farmers. (Advertiser, 5.10.90)
- October 11th. 1990 State Government's latest rural relief package seen as inadequate. Mass slaughter and burial of unsaleable sheep begins. (Advertiser, 11.10.90 and 12.10.90)
- October 20th. 1990 The federal Minister for Primary Industry, John Kerin, is warned of imminent collapse of the citrus industry due to cheap imported concentrates. Boom season in Florida and overproduction in Brazil blamed. (Advertiser, 27.10.90)
- October 30th. 1990 Commencement of bank foreclosures on indebted citrus growers reported (Advertiser, 30.10.90)
- October 31st. 1990 Riverland "Fight for Survival" committee urges 1400 fruit growers to defer payment of their council and water rates until Federal government action taken. (Advertiser, 31.10.90)
- November 1990 Australian Wool Corporation stockpile reaches 4 million bales. National sheep flock, at record number of 170 mill., proposed reduced by 15 to 20 million through a massive slaughter plan prepared by Wool Corporation; quotas introduced to force woolgrowers to cut production by up to 25% (Advertiser, 1.11.90 and 8.11.90)
- November 6th.-7th. 1990 Commonwealth Parliamentary enquiry into anti-dumping laws instituted in the Senate. Assets test ceiling for family benefits doubled to allow farmer access to family allowance and Austudy
- November 15th. 1990 Riverland fruitgrowers protest march and demonstration in Adelaide against foreign dumping and Australian government free trade policy (Advertiser, 15.11.90 and 16.11.90)
- November 19th. 1990 Hume Highway blocked at Yass by demonstration of more than 500 farmers protesting against interest rates, fuel taxes, exchange rate and foreign food imports
- November 20th. 1990 National Farmers' Federation commissions survey of interest rates paid by farmers, including bank practices in charging farmers high-risk margins on top of set interest rates (Advertiser, 21.11.90)
- November 28th. 1990 Release of a "rebel" woolgrower report urging free marketing of wool seen by Federal Minister of Primary Industries (John Kerin) as undermining the sustainability of the new \$7.00/Kg floor price
- December 5th. 1990 Wine glut causes Penfolds winery to advise up to 600 growers that it is unlikely to be able to take their crops (Advertiser, 5.12.90)
- December 10th. 1990 The heavily wool-dependent economy of Kangaroo Island faces total collapse; no bids for properties offered at auction, and most farmers expecting negative income for the 199/91 year. Efforts by Riverland citrus growers to cut out middlemen by marketing crop direct at roadside cause retail trade to retaliate by importing even cheaper oranges from Victoria (Advertiser, 10.12.90)
- December 13th. 1990 Federal Government provides extra funding to the Rural Adjustment Scheme to help non-viable farmers leave the land
- December 14th. 1990 Federal Government rejects a grower plan to underwrite subsidies for the citrus industry, but promises to tighten anti-dumping restrictions
- December 28th. 1990 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics condemns the wool floor price system as ineffective in stabilising grower incomes (Advertiser, 29.12.90)
- January, 1991 1.27 million sheep slaughtered in South Australia since August 1990
Egypt, Australia's largest wheat buyer in 1990, agrees to purchase between 280,000 and 400,000 tonnes of United States wheat, subsidised by \$45 per tonne (Advertiser, 30.1.91)
- February, 1991 Collapse of State Bank subsidiary Beneficial Finance begins to cast new doubt over future of farmers indebted to State Bank. United States Congress lifts the \$US425 million ceiling on its Export Enhancement Program.

February 1st. 1991	Australian Wool Board announces 3-week suspension of wool sales.
February 6th. 1991	Primary Industries Minister John Kerin responds to Canberra rally in support of the wool price floor scheme by 400 N.S.W. woolgrowers. Australian Wool Corporation now \$2.8 billion in debt, stockpile reaches 4.8 million bales. (Advertiser, 6.2.91)
February 11th. 1991	Commonwealth government announces the suspension of the wool floor price scheme after 18 years of operation. Government provides \$300 million subsidy to compensate growers for the rest of the financial year. (Advertiser, 13.2 and 16.2, 1991)
February 16th. 1991	Australian Wheat Board forecasts wheat price for 1990/91 harvest of about \$115/tonne, \$80 less than the previous year, due to farm subsidisation war raging between the United States and the European Community. (Advertiser, 16.2.91)
February 23rd. 1991	United Farmers and Stockowners survey shows average debt on South Australian farms between \$201,000 and \$207,000. Large-scale rural poverty reported throughout the settled areas (Advertiser, 23.2.1991)
February 25th. 1991	First free market wool sales since suspension of floor price see wool prices drop between 25% and 45% below former floor price (Advertiser, 26.2.91)
March 1st., 1991	End of the Australian Wool Corporation subsidised sheep slaughter scheme during which about 10 million sheep were killed.
March 2nd. 1991	State Bank gives undertaking that its '\$1 billion' loss will not affect its policy to farm debt. (Advertiser, 2.3.91)
March 8th. 1991	Australia signs agreement to supply up to 10 million tonnes of wheat to Egypt over 5 years. Survey by "The Advertiser" newspaper shows about 0.5 million hectares - about 775 rural properties - up for sale in South Australia. (Advertiser, 8.3 and 9.3.91)
March 1991	United Farmers and Stockowners submits a rescue proposal for S.A. Agriculture, "Funds to Carry On", to the State government, showing an estimated 5250 South Australian farmers (35%) had been denied carry-on finance by commercial lenders. (U.F.& S. of S.A., 1991, pp. 17-18) Increasing frequency of press reports on the impact of the crisis on country towns
March 9th. 1991	Some improvement in wool sale prices to \$4.35/Kg market indicator, and wheat price rise of \$11 per tonne
March 14th. 1991	Two farmer suicides under stress from the rural crisis reported (Advertiser, 14.3.91)
1st. April 1991	Warning by the U.F. & S. chief executive of likely direct action by farmers to prevent mortgage foreclosure sales of farms. Members advised not to sign any documents presented to them by banks without taking professional advice (Advertiser, 1.4.91)
5th. April 1991	Prime Minister Hawke, at a Sydney meeting with State premiers, rejects their proposal for federal underwriting of wheat prices (Advertiser, 6.4.91)
17th. April 1991	Primary Industries Minister John Kerin releases details of four-part Federal assistance package boosting funding for the Rural Assistance Scheme from \$64 mill. to \$160 mill., effective 1.7.91, plus \$35 mill. further compensation for loss of grain sales to Iraq resulting from the Gulf war. (Advertiser, 18.4.91)
27th. April 1991	Opening seasonal rains arrive but farmers unable to plant due to continued uncertainty about carry-on finance (Advertiser 27.4.91)
29th. April 1991	Farmers' Action Group formed at Kimba on Eyre Peninsula to prevent forced farm sales, to join other such groups operating at Lock, Tumbly Bay and Kangaroo Island (Advertiser, 29.4.91)
30th. April 1991	State government releases a package intended to tide farmers over with assistance to sow 1991 crop prior to Federal funding becoming available on 1st. July. Package rejected by the U.F. & S. as totally inadequate, assisting a

- maximum of 350 out of the estimated 5000 the U.F. & S. believed to be in "desperate trouble". (Advertiser, 1.5.91)
- 2nd. May 1991. Farmers give the State government ultimatum to come up with improved aid package to assist farmers with carry-on finance, or face a strong and disruptive campaign (Advertiser, 2.5.91)
- 3rd. May 1991 Murray Mallee farmers set up road blocks at Wanbi (Advertiser, 4.5.91)
- 4th. May 1991 Australian Wheat Board agrees to allow early payment of claims by farmers for money owed from three past wheat pools, providing \$20 million from extra borrowing underwritten by the Federal Government. (Advertiser, 4/5/91)
- 7th. May 1991 South Australian farmers occupy 11 State Ministers' offices, including the Premier's, in a 6- hour sit-in (Advertiser, 8.5.91)
- 8th. May 1991 Farmers picketing government vehicle garage injured by car driven through the picket lines (Advertiser, 9.5.91)
- 16th. May 1991 Federal Government reduces interest rates by 1% and tells banks it expects the full reduction to be passed on to farmers. (Advertiser, 18.5.91)
- 4th. June 1991 U. F. & S. Chief Executive makes no apology for intimidatory tactics used by farmer action groups at six forced sale auctions across the State (Advertiser, 4.7.91)
- July 1991 Intensification of the trade war in subsidised grains between the E.E.C. and the U.S.A. Australia's Minister for Trade and Overseas Development, Neal Blewett, accuses the U.S. and E.E.C. of "economic vandalism" at a meeting of the Cairns Group (Advertiser, 9.7.91)
- July 1991 Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs describes United States offer of 1 million tonnes of subsidised wheat to China, following earlier E.E.C. sales there, as an act of a "hostile country" (Advertiser, 1.8. and 5.8.91)
- August 1991 Record numbers of farmers apply for aid to leave farming from the Rural Adjustment Scheme (The Australian, 2.8.91)
- August 6th. 1991 United States follows its sale of wheat to China with an offer to sell 300,000 tonnes of subsidised wheat to Yemen, a traditional Australian market (The Age, 7.8.91) Ambassadors of the 12 E.E.C. countries called to Parliament House by Simon Crean, Minister for Primary Industries, to condemn their subsidy policies (Advertiser, 8.8.91)
- August 14th. 1991 Figures released by the A.B.S. show returns to S.A. farmers fell by 24.1% for the 1990/91 financial year, the greatest fall of any State (Advertiser, 14.8.91)
- August 16th. 1991 Foreign Minister Gareth Evans reports failure of Washington talks with the U.S. to resolve problem of subsidised wheat sales under the Export Enhancement Program (Advertiser, 16.8.91)
- September 1991 Crippling impact of the rural crisis on country towns reported (Advertiser, 2.9.91, 14.9.91)
- January 2nd. 1992 Delegation of Australian farmers meet President Bush in Canberra to protest U.S. trade policies
- February 1992 Kangaroo Island farm debts reported to range between \$100,000 and \$500,000, and farmers obliged to sign confidentiality agreements with their banks on non-disclosure of terms before being granted carry on finance (Advertiser, 26.2.92)
- April 1992 Good opening rains bring farmers renewed hope
- May 1992 Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics estimates 1992/3 wheat crop will more than double that of previous year
- June 1992 Australia loses 2.4% of its farms in one year, but South Australia has the lowest loss rate of 1.1% (Advertiser, 13.5. and 14.5.92)
- At least 15 farmers in Streaky Bay district use strategy of "self-bankruptcy" sales of all assets, in return for residual debt write-off by their main creditors. Farms sold to family-owned companies who then reinstate original farmer as manager (Advertiser, 17.6.92)
- Heavy rains in June increase prospects of an excellent harvest.

September 1992	Australian/United States relations deteriorate as George Bush makes election promise to spend an extra \$30 billion subsidising United States wheat farmers Sale of 500,000 tonnes of subsidised U.S. wheat to Pakistan (Advertiser, 11.9. and 7.10.92)
October 1992	Rising incidence of social trauma and rural poverty reported throughout the State. Of Kangaroo Island's 4000 people, 1152 reported to be on some form of social benefit. (Advertiser, 5.10 and 6.10.92)
October 6th. 1992	Sale of 1 million tons of subsidised U.S. wheat to India
October 1992	Gradual increase in Press reporting of awareness of, and action to promote, novel, specialised and diversified primary production in the State
October 27th. 1992	More than 30 doctors needed to fill medical vacancies in country areas throughout the State (Advertiser, 27.10.92)
October 30th. 1992	Concern about the effects of the warm wet spring in triggering disease and fungal problems reduces estimates of bumper harvest
November 3rd. 1992	Star Force police break through farmer barrier seeking to prevent the forcible eviction of a young family from a disputed property at Parndana, Kangaroo Island (Advertiser, 4.11.92)
November 1992	Outbreaks of downy and powdery mildew threaten grape crop. Serious fears develop for the wheat harvest due to continued late rain.
December 1992	Citrus industry again in crisis due to rapid reduction in tariff on imports and alleged inefficiencies in the co-operative marketing organisations. Threats of violence made in Riverland. Oranges dumped in Adelaide South Australia's 800 Riverland citrus growers reported to be among the poorest in the nation (Advertiser, 2.12. and 4.12.92)
December 17th. 1992	Continued heavy rains through the harvest season causes \$70 million losses in Eyre Peninsula where 95% of grain now being received at silos is sprouting and downgraded to feed quality only (Advertiser 17.12.92)
December 19th. 1992	Deluges across almost all producing areas of the State cause estimated \$750 million damage (Advertiser, 19.12.92)
December 21st. 1992	Heavy flooding and devastation in the Adelaide Hills. State Government appeals for \$22.6 million to help fund a \$27 million flood relief package for 1800 farmers (Advertiser, 22.12.92)
December 29th. 1992	Primary Industry minister Simon Crean pledges \$1 mill. immediate aid to flood-hit S.A. farmers after visiting Eyre Peninsula (Advertiser, 29.12.92)
December 30th. 1992	Crisis meeting of industry leaders in Melbourne to deal with the problem of marketing about 4-5 million tonnes of down-graded wheat from an estimated 15 mill tonne national crop (Advertiser, 31.12.92)
January 1993	Unseasonal rains continue into January. South Australian Farmers' Federation (formerly United Farmers and Stockowners) president Tim Scholz presses for national summit meeting to confront farm debt problem (Advertiser, 27.1.93)
February 1993	Shortage of Australian hard wheat due to rain damage forces import of Canadian wheat for pasta production (Advertiser, 5.2.93) But a boom is beginning in the Australian wine industry, led by expanding exports
February 17th. 1993	National Farmers Federation launches new policy statement "New Horizons" aimed at revitalising Australian agriculture
March 1993	Wool market indicator price falls to \$4.64/Kg. by mid-March, and \$4.33 late March. (Advertiser, 20.3.93)
April 27th. 1993	Further fall in wool market indicator price to \$3.86/Kg, a 50-year low (Advertiser, 28.4.93)
April 28th. 1993	Primary Industries minister Simon Crean announces a further aid package for hard-pressed wool growers
May 1993	Mouse numbers build up in wheat belt districts, triggered by wet weather and large amounts of available feed (Advertiser, 6.5.93) Wool prices begin to recover, reaching \$4.55 after bottoming out at \$3.81 (Weekend Australian, 15-16.5.93)

- June 1993
2nd. June 1993
15th. June 1993
17th. June 1993
25th. June 1993
28th. June 1993
7th. July 1993
July 1993
17th. July 1993
20th. July 1993
23rd. July 1993
27th. July 1993
29th. July 1993
August 1993
August 12th. 1993
September 1993
October 1993
October 20th. 1993
October 1993
- Concern grows over the very dry spring and delay in sowing the 1993/4 crop
Star Force police force an eviction of a farm family at Padthaway on behalf of Westpac bank in the face of a barricade by 90 farmers of South-East Action Group (Advertiser, 3.6.93.)
Concern at continued buildup of mice numbers in the cereal belt. Manager of S.A. Co-operative Bulk Handling reports 5,000-10,000 per night poisoned at Port Giles silos (Advertiser, 15.6.93)
Further Star Force eviction of farm family in the face of farmer action group barricade at Parndana, Kangaroo Island (Advertiser, 17.6.93)
Wool outlook improves with large wool sale to China (Advertiser, 26.6.93)
Two thousand farmers affected by losses from rain damage in 1992 apply for assistance from up to 100% subsidised interest scheme for carry-on finance after encouragement to do so by State Minister of Agriculture, Terry Groom (Advertiser, 28.6.93)
Police eviction of a farm family at Cummins, Eyre Peninsula, after failed attempt to auction the farm failed due to pressure on potential bidders
Further Star Force eviction of a barricaded Loxton family after farmer resists with pitchfork (Advertiser, 8.7. and 14.7.93)
Full-scale mouse plague develops destroying newly planted cereal crops. Importation and use of strychnine bait authorised by Terry Groom. Mice reported gnawing poultry and livestock, invading houses, outbuildings, piggeries, shops. (Advertiser, 8.7., 9.7. 10.7., 13.7., 15.7.93)
Release of major report on Dryland Salinity recommends urgent action to rehabilitate 354,000 hectares of salt-damaged land in South Australia (Advertiser, 17.7.93)
Continued mouse plague raises fears of severe soil erosion in spring and sparks calls for declaration of natural disaster (Advertiser, 17.7, 21.7 and 26.7.93)
Right-wing political groups flourish on the anger of rural Australians (Advertiser, 23.7.93)
South Australian Farmers' Federation sets up company to start direct marketing of wool in the United States (Advertiser, 27.7. and 28.7.93)
Chris Pritchard, executive officer of S.A.F.F. raises urgent problem of an estimated \$2 billion entrenched rural debt, suggested addressed by change to the State's bankruptcy laws on the U.S. model to allow debt write-down (Advertiser, 29.7.93)
Mouse plague continues into early August, but gradually brought under control by strychnine baiting programme (Advertiser, 6.8 and 10.8.93)
Report of the Federal government's Wool Industry Review Committee recommends large-scale re-organisation of wool marketing and promotion (Advertiser, 12.8.93)
South Australian Farmers' Federation estimates that one third of S.A.'s 14,000 farmers are living on or below the poverty line (Advertiser, 22.9.93)
S.A.F.F. draws attention to the run-down state of the State's farm machinery and equipment, inability of older farmers to retire, failure to maintain fertiliser inputs (Advertiser, 13.10.93)
Rural Support Working Group supports call by "Rural Women for Justice" spokesperson Christobel Oldfield calls for a rural debt mediation system to intervene between banks and clients in situations of entrenched rural debt (Advertiser 20.10.93)
Killing frost affects crops in a large area of Eyre Peninsula Elsewhere, after late rains in the 1993/4 growing season, a good harvest is achieved. Harvesting handicapped by large amount of rain-damaged wheat still in storage from previous season Advertiser, 28.10.93)

November-December 1993	Harvesting progresses well. Wheat crop expected to be about 4 million tonnes. But very low prices for barley offset high yields: Karoonda farmers receive only \$35.50/tonne for feed barley and \$57.50 for malting barley (Advertiser, 3.3.94)
11th. December 1993	New Liberal government elected in South Australia
January 1994	New Premier of South Australia, Dean Brown, launches enquiry into the extent of rural debt in the State
February 16th. 1994	Conference of all major financial institutions with farmer and rural community organisations on Alternative Dispute Resolution to address rural indebtedness
April 1994	Release of Durham and Kidman report on Rural Debt in South Australia shows total rural indebtedness of \$1.4 billion. Eighteen percent of businesses experience debt deterioration and servicing difficulty, a further 5% deemed definitely non-viable (Durham and Kidman, 1994)
April 13th. 1994	State government announces Young Farmers' Incentive Scheme to assist young people remain on the land or to enter farming, funded by up to \$7 million annually (Advertiser, 13.4.94)
May 1994	Resurgence of mouse plague in Murray Mallee (Advertiser, 14.5.94) Autumn one of the driest on record
May 24th. 1994	Severe dust storm affects most of the settled areas. Extent of erosion due partly to the 1993 mouse plague (Advertiser, 25.4 and 28.4.94)
June 1994	Commonwealth Government Inquiry into the Wine and Grape industry launched. Wine and grape boom a bright spot on the State farm scene (Advertiser, 29.6 and 30.6.94)
July 1994	Warning of impending El Nino event. Concern over lack of rain mounts as severe drought continues in Queensland and N.S.W. (Advertiser, 26.7., 27.7., 28.7.94) State Government enquiry into rural poverty commenced.
August 1994	Indicator price for wool rises to \$7.28/Kg., providing some hope to growers
September 1st., 1994	Revolutionary system of Mississippi type pusher barges proposed to serve Eyre Peninsula grain ports by the 1996 harvest (Advertiser, 1.9.94) Federal and South Australian governments agree to a region-by region approach to drought declaration (Advertiser, 2.9.94)
September 1994	Fears of serious drought mount as rainfall remains minimal in much of the wheat belt (Advertiser, 5.9, 6.9., 9.9., 10.9.94)
September 12th. 1994	Federal Government announces further assistance to rural industry and farm families to combat the national drought. Eyre Peninsula again badly affected (Advertiser, 12.9.94)
September 13th. 1994	Expectations of short supply of wool due to drought boost wool market indicator price to \$8.01/Kg (Advertiser, 14.9.94)
September 21st. 1994	Prime Minister announces \$164 million drought relief package. South Australia appears unlikely to qualify for most of the benefits (Advertiser, 22.9.94)
September 23rd. 1994	Major sell-off of sheep as farmers dispose of all but nucleus breeding flocks to carry through drought (Advertiser, 22.9., 23.9.94)
September 28th. 1994	National "Farm Hand Appeal" reaches \$10 million to support farmers with urgent living needs and household expenses (Advertiser, 28.9.94)
October 1994	Late rains afford some relief
October 14th. 1994	Closure of Tatiara Meatworks at Bordertown with the loss of 420 jobs (Advertiser, 15.10.94)