



**GRAIN
PRODUCERS SA**
The voice of South Australian growers

News

AUGUST 2019

GROWING SA conference a great success

Engaging with the broader public and communicating the benefits of key tools such as biotechnology and glyphosate was a key theme of the third annual GROWING SA Conference held at Hahndorf earlier this week.

This year more than 230 delegates attended the event, hosted by GPSA and Livestock SA on Monday 26 and Tuesday 27 August.

Keynote speaker **Professor Kevin Folta** from the University of Florida stressed the need for industry to engage with the community and build trust in food production.

While science is important, Professor Folta said the community wanted to first know that they can trust farmers, highlighting the need for empathy and understanding in conversations with those outside agriculture. Once trust is established, then farmers can talk about how they produce a quality and nutritious food supply.

International research shows that connecting based on values rather than science, facts and technical expertise is the key to opening the door to have conversations about food and agriculture.

This was reinforced by **2019 South Australian AgriFutures Rural Women's Award Winner Deanna Lush**, who outlined a strategy to start to change the way the industry engages by giving new skills in how to have honest conversations with non-agricultural audiences.

In her address to the conference,



National Farmers' Federation President Fiona Simson outlined the NFF's upcoming awareness campaign that is designed to engage the non-agricultural community. Fiona also outlined the policy advocacy the NFF has undertaken so far to help combat farm trespass, including a range of reforms that will be shortly presented to the Federal Parliament which will make it an offence to use a communications service to incite trespass.

Mellor Olsson Solicitor Victoria Gilliland added to the farm trespass discussion in her speech, which covered the existing trespass offences in South Australia and their effectiveness as a deterrent.

Meanwhile, another keynote speaker **Bayer medical science outreach lead Dr Eliza Dunn**, from the United States, explained the importance of pesticides to food security but also for public health, highlighting that insect-borne diseases are the leading cause of death worldwide. She made the point that bans on such

products – which were already heavily regulated – put food supply and children's health at risk.

Other highlights of GROWING SA were the gala dinner held on Monday night, sponsored by **Ramsay Bros**, which saw 150 guests get a taste of some of SA's finest food and beverages.

Highlighting the importance of GPSA's grower advocacy was the attendance of politicians from across the political aisle, including the **Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development the Hon Tim Whetstone MP, Shadow Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Eddie Hughes MP, and federal Member for Barker Tony Pasin MP.**

GROWING also helps GPSA to identify areas of need for advocacy. More information on the Conference is available at the GROWING SA website: www.growingsa.com.au

Professor Folta, who hosts the Talking Biotech podcast series, has recorded an episode at Growing SA. Listen to his podcast here: www.tinyurl.com/foltapodcast

Government announces GM moratorium to be lifted from mainland SA

After 15 years, growers on mainland SA are set to have access to GM crops for the first time, following a landmark State Government announcement.

The Government's decision comes after an independent review by Professor Kym Anderson found that the moratorium has cost SA's grain industry at least \$33 million since 2004. In addition to the \$33 million cost, Professor Anderson's review has found,

among other things, that there is no discernible price premium for grain or other commodities from SA despite it being the only mainland state with a GM crop moratorium.

The Review also made specific findings regarding Kangaroo Island. GPSA lead consultation efforts with growers there, and proposed that the moratorium be restricted to the Island due to the unique geographic and economic circumstances.

The Government's announcement also triggers a six-week consultation process. PIRSA is currently accepting submissions regarding the proposed change, and public meetings will be held in Adelaide and on Kangaroo Island. Following consultation, amendments to the regulations that establish the moratorium over mainland SA will be recommended to the Governor.

The revised regulations are subject to a disallowance motion by either house of Parliament. If the regulations are upheld, growers on mainland South Australia will have the freedom to grow

the cereal, legume and oilseed varieties that best fit their farming system from early December 2019, however the moratorium will continue to apply to growers on Kangaroo Island until 1 September 2025.

A fact sheet which provides further information about the proposed changes is available on GPSA's website: www.tinyurl.com/GMmoratorium2019



Late-season glyphosate permit on feed barley approved

Grain Producers Australia have advised industry that the APVMA has issued a permit for 'Pre-Harvest Dessication and Spray Topping of Weeds in Specified Barley (Except Malting Barley) with a permit expiry of 30 April 2020.

The permit extends the practice of late-season barley application on barley (feed only) from the original permit issued on 2 November 2016. The permit will allow grain producers and traders to put appropriate plans in place for the 19/20 harvest.

Producers are reminded of the importance of stewardship of pesticide products, including glyphosate. The conditions of use, directions and restraints of the permit must be followed. Declarations of use may also be required and complied with as directed by buyers and traders.

Grain Producers Australia would like to thank the APVMA for the timely review and approval of this permit.

More information is available at www.tinyurl.com/GPApermitupdateAug

Three GPSA directors re-elected at AGM

GPSA's Annual General Meeting of members was also held in conjunction with the GROWING SA conference earlier in the week. Growers heard reports from GPSA Chair Wade Dabinett and CEO Caroline Rhodes on GPSA's activities in 2018/19.

Chair Wade Dabinett highlighted the importance of a strong grower advocacy body in light of tough seasonal conditions. Wade also

provided an overview of GPSA's efforts over the past year as well as its strong financial position.

Three two-year positions were filled as part of the AGM, with Directors Jared Sampson, Warrambo, Dion Woolford, Kimba, and Adrian McCabe, Hamley Bridge being elected unopposed.

This follows an extensive and transparent notice period as part

of new best-practice arrangements under GPSA's revised constitution.

In addition, growers heard from SAGIT Chairman Max Young, Grain Producers Australia Southern Region Director Steve Ball, and GRDC Managing Director Dr Steve Jefferies.

GPSA's Annual Report for 2018/19 is available at www.tinyurl.com/GPSA18-19report