



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

# News

DECEMBER 2018

## GPSA Makes Case for Grower GM Choice in SA Parliament

**South Australian grain producers have had their chance to raise their opposition to the state's GM moratorium in Parliament, some 5,340 days after it entered into force.**

Representing South Australian producers was GPSA chairman Wade Dabinett, GPSA director Dion Woolford, GPSA CEO Caroline Rhodes, and PPSA Chairman Rob Kerin, alongside Mecardo's Andrew Whitelaw.

GPSA told the Parliament's GM Select Committee that growers should have the freedom to choose to grow the cereal, legume and oilseed varieties that best fit

their farming system.

This means having access to GM crops.

Interstate grain producers can choose to adopt GM canola varieties to take advantage of agricultural and environmental benefits, yet SA growers are treated differently by state parliament banning the farming of varieties approved by the national regulator. Only SA and Tasmania restrict the types of crops that growers are able to produce.

Independent analysis by market experts Mecardo in March 2018 found that the moratorium has not resulted in premiums or a trade and marketing advantage for

most primary producers – not just grain growers – in SA. GPSA's position is not about picking winning production systems. All producers deserve the freedom to grow the crops which best suit their business. We know that GM, non-GM, and organic systems coexist interstate, and they can do so here.

The current moratorium on GM crops is constraining business and overall industry growth. This has ramifications for the broader South Australian economy, including loss of reputation, loss of competitiveness, increased cost to business, industry stigma, and loss of research investment.

We are excited about the potential of GM technology to provide agronomic, environmental and economic benefits to grain producers, and want to see an orderly process towards this moratorium being lifted.

Read GPSA's submission to the GM Select Committee:

[www.tinyurl.com/SelectCommitteeGPSA](http://www.tinyurl.com/SelectCommitteeGPSA)



## Chain Of Responsibility... made easy!

**Did you know regulations have changed under the Heavy Vehicle National Law? Not sure if your primary production business is compliant?**

Find out what you need to do and get practical tips and advice!

GPSA are holding interactive, FREE and practical workshops for our members, and all Primary Producers SA commodity group members, in conjunction with industry experts Natwide Personnel.

The workshops will assist farmers in understanding their obligations and risks in the CoR chain, and help them implement plans and checklists to reduce the risk to their businesses.

Bring your questions to ask the experts at one of the first workshops:

- Loxton: 3pm Monday 21 January, Loxton Research Centre.
- Kingston-on-Murray: 9am Tuesday 22 January, Banrock Station Meeting Room.
- Tanunda: 3pm Thursday 24

January, CWA Hall.

- Mount Barker: 3pm Thursday 31 January, Auchendarroch House.

Following attendance, producers will receive support and advice from Natwide, valued at \$1500.

This program has been made possible by support from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Program.

Full details, more workshop dates, and registration is via the website:

[www.tinyurl.com/EasyCoR](http://www.tinyurl.com/EasyCoR)

## Drought support information

Information on dry conditions support and assistance measures can be found on GPSA's website at [www.tinyurl.com/drought2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/drought2018)

# KNOW YOUR CODE

## Parliamentary Select Committee to investigate proposed CFS powers

**As growers will be aware, the South Australian Government has recently flagged legislative changes that would grant CFS Officers new powers to direct the cessation of harvesting and other activities if they pose a fire risk based on weather conditions.**

This would allow, for example, a CFS officer to direct that harvesting stop even if the weather conditions are acceptable under the Grass Fire Danger Index (GFDI). While we understand that the intent of the proposed changes is to prevent high-risk activities such as welding and angle grinding, GPSA is concerned that growers may be adversely impacted even if they are doing the right thing.

GPSA has made these concerns known to the Minister for Police, Emergency Services and Correctional Services at a recent meeting. We are pleased to see that Parliament has listened to concerns raised by GPSA and individual growers and has established a Select Committee in response,

which will provide an opportunity for anyone affected by the proposed changes to put their views forward.

The Select Committee will be chaired by Eyre Peninsula MP Peter Treloar, and is comprised of regional MPs from both the Liberal and Labor parties, including David Basham MP, Leon Bignell MP, Eddie Hughes MP and Josh Teague MP. GPSA will be making its own submission to the Select Committee, highlighting the fact that growers will be penalised by this legislation even after years of national best-practice in fire-risk management.

Through the establishment of the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, GPSA has been encouraging growers to be proactive in their approach to fire mitigation and management.

To assist growers in abiding by the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, GPSA is asking growers, 'how well do you Know Your Code?'. This is the next phase of the successful Know Your Code campaign originally launched in 2016. Learn more about Know Your Code at [www.tinyurl.com/KnowYourCode](http://www.tinyurl.com/KnowYourCode)

## Potential changes to EP rail freight

Grain Producers SA is monitoring developments between Viteria and Eyre Peninsula rail freight operator Genesee and Wyoming (GWA), as their freight services negotiations continue. GPSA will advocate for the most efficient grain export pathway to service the Eyre Peninsula to ensure that growers are well serviced.

The region is currently served by both road and rail, helping Viteria to position large volumes of grain to meet peak shipping demand. Any change to the way in which grain is moved must continue to service growers and exporters, and with consideration to the impact on the community in Port Lincoln and surrounding areas.

GPSA understands that Viteria is working with GWA to extend their agreement until May 2019, while commercial negotiations remain ongoing towards the 2019/20 season.

## GPSA in the media

GPSA has capped off a busy year of grower-driven advocacy with a range of appearances in local, state, and national media.

Since October, we've been featured or referenced in over 20 news and media articles. On behalf of growers, we've covered and commented on stories ranging from harvest, confidence in the season, genetically modified crops, encouraging rural women, industry reform, the proposed Mining Bill, as well as the proposed legislation to give CFS officers more power.

This has been in a range of outlets including The Australian, The Advertiser, the Stock Journal, 2GB, The Weekly Times, ABC Country Hour, the Port Lincoln Times, the Eyre Tribune, and the Murray Valley Standard.

In the last week of State Parliament for 2018, GPSA was mentioned 12 times, with our longstanding advocacy on behalf of growers to better balance mining and agriculture being commonly cited.



## GPSA Christmas - New Year opening hours

GPSA's office will close on Friday December 21 2018, and will re-open on Monday, January 7 2019. If you have an urgent enquiry, please send an email marked as urgent to [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)



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