



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

News

DECEMBER 2019

GM developments cautiously welcomed

Despite Parliament's Upper Legislative Council disallowing regulations in November and voting down legislation in December, growers on SA's mainland may still be able to access GM technology after the State Government again introduced regulations to lift the moratorium as of 1 January 2020.

GPSA has cautiously welcomed this news, calling on all sides of politics to focus on delivering an outcome for growers on this important issue.

The grain industry has a clear policy objective, which is to see the GM ban lifted so growers can have the freedom of choice to access the crops which best suit their farming systems.

Whether this is done through regulations or legislation does not matter – that is up to the politicians to decide – what matters is South Australian growers having access to world-leading genetics so they can get on with the job of feeding the world.

GPSA's focus in the new year will be on ensuring these regulations are not disallowed again. Earlier this month Parliament's Legislative Council voted to deny growers access to the same GM technology as their interstate counterparts.

SA growers have been held back from accessing advanced genetics in plant breeding for 15 years while their mainland interstate counterparts have been able to adopt the technology.

GPSA has consistently argued the moratorium offers little in the way of trade and marketing benefits to the majority of agricultural producers in SA and removes the option of using



GM tools which have been independently proven to be safe and effective.

There is a clear appetite for choice among growers, with those from South Australia and across the country joining in a social media campaign orchestrated by GPSA calling on politicians to #backtheGMbill, with the video testimonials viewed thousands of times on Twitter and Facebook.

This social media campaign worked in conjunction with GPSA meetings held with key Opposition and Government ministers over the course of the debate in the lead-up to the vote in the Legislative Council in December.

Following the success of our campaign, GPSA is now planning a GM summit to be held in early 2020.

As of this week, the Government has enabled genetically modified seeds to travel through SA for the first time under a ministerial exemption, with GenTech Seeds now able to transport GM canola seed from NSW to WA via SA.

GPSA will resume our discussions with the Labor Party to bridge the political divide and get Parliament to #backtheGMbill.

More information on GPSA's advocacy on this issue is available on our website: www.grainproducerssa.com.au

New workshops highlight roadworthy heavy vehicle importance

Heavy vehicle roadworthiness will be explained in easy-to-understand terms at a series of free workshops across South Australia, beginning early next year.

Primary Producers SA members will benefit from the Grain Producers SA delivered Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles... Made Easy! campaign. Theory workshops will be held to provide primary producers with industry-specific information regarding road safety awareness, their compliance and maintenance responsibilities, national heavy vehicle law and the requirements of the NHVR. In addition,

all participants have the opportunity to observe an inspection to receive valuable roadworthiness hints and tips. In addition, by registering early theory workshop registrants can also put forward their own vehicle for a free of charge inspection with a checklist produced as part of each practical workshop.

Primary producers who attend the workshops will receive tools such as appropriate templates, checklists, policies and procedures and hands-on training valued to help them develop a tailored approach to heavy vehicle maintenance,

inspections and compliance on vehicles involved in their farm businesses.

The workshops are funded by the NHVR's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative, supported by the Federal Government.

Registrations will open second week of January 2020 for the Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles... Made Easy! workshops, visit www.grainproducerssa.com.au

**ROADWORTHY
HEAVY VEHICLES... Made Easy!**

Grain Industry Blueprint Working Groups kick off

ONE of Grain Producers SA's top priorities in the first half of 2020 will be to draft and finalise the South Australian Grain Industry Blueprint.

Since the State Government announced funding for the Blueprint in June 2019, Jonathan Wilson has been appointed the Blueprint manager and a steering committee established, chaired by Dr Don Plowman.

This steering committee has met several times and will continue to meet regularly in the first half of 2020.

To drive investment, expansion and growth in SA's primary industries, the State Government has set an objective to lift the sustainable economic growth rate in SA to an average of three per cent per year.

This equates to the grain industry contributing \$6 billion to gross food revenue by 2030.

To achieve this, the industry needs to consider access to best markets, increasing yields and decreasing cost.

Through research and consultation, six key pillars have been identified which the Blueprint will be structured around.

These pillars are market opportunities, value adding, biosecurity and quality assurance, infrastructure investment, building industry capacity and innovation.

Working groups have been established under each pillar with representation from across the industry, including growers,

advisers, researchers, traders and government.

The level of collaboration from across the industry on the Blueprint so far has been fantastic and a credit to those who want to see SA's grain sector flourish for the next decade and beyond.

In the first quarter of 2020, the Blueprint team will be embarking on a roadshow in an effort to gain feedback on the draft Blueprint, with locations and dates to be announced soon.

People working across all facets of the SA grain industry are encouraged to make every effort to attend one of the roadshow sessions, as the Blueprint represents a unique and exciting opportunity for all grain industry stakeholders to shape their industry's future for the next decade and beyond.

This project is proudly supported by the Government of South Australia.

For more information see www.tinyurl.com/y5o9lh45 or for Blueprint enquires contact GPSA via email blueprint@grainproducerssa.com.au



EP Ports update

Eyre Peninsula infrastructure developments are looking promising following announcements by stakeholders and Federal Government.

This year has seen the commencement of grain receivals at T-Ports' Lock and Lucky Bay bunker sites. All signs point to this being only the beginning of the Eyre Peninsula's extensive infrastructure development, given the promising announcements made over previous weeks.

Viterra has invested in its infrastructure at Port Lincoln promising the conversion of three sheds for unloading, electrical upgrade works and ongoing roadworks. The Federal Government has announced seed funding for the proposed multi-commodity, deep-water Cape Hardy Port Precinct, being developed by Iron Road Ltd. Further, Free Eyre Ltd is continuing to raise capital toward finalising pre-build and licencing requirements of the proposed Peninsula Port's 'Port Spencer.'

These developments have the potential to significantly influence grain movement patterns across the region and will provide greater opportunities for local growing communities in terms of both export and storage.

Proponents are continuing to update GPSA as they assemble required resources.



National Heavy Vehicle Charging Pilot

The Commonwealth Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development is seeking grower input on a new trial that is testing whether mass-distance based charges are a viable alternative to heavy vehicle registration and fuel excise charges.

Under the trial, participating heavy vehicle operators receive mock monthly invoices that compare an operator's current registration and fuel charges with an alternative mass-distance based charge.

More information, including how to participate, is available at: www.infrastructure.gov.au/nationalpilot

Drought support information

Information on dry conditions support and assistance measures can be found on GPSA's website at www.tinyurl.com/drought2019



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