

10 ways GPSA worked for you while you farmed in 2014-15

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1 Industry and government liaison

GPSA staff and directors attended hundreds of meetings in 2014-15 to ensure that grain producers were represented in discussions on government policy and industry decisions. This is to ensure that the grain industry is not marginalised or over-regulated and GPSA's vision for profitable, sustainable grain producers can be achieved.

2 Auction windfall

SA grain producers gained an extra \$90 million at harvest 2014-15 because of the auction system for allocation of shipping slots. GPSA is continuing communication with the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission and industry to ensure any change to long-term agreements for port access will bring about benefits to SA grain producers.

3 Leadership development

GPSA supported two young grain producers – Nick Greig, Crystal Brook and Lou Flohr, Lameroo – to attend the 2015 Australian Grains Industry Conference in Melbourne in July. Two female grain producers were supported to attend the International Rural Women's Conference in Adelaide in March – Jennifer Horne, Wharminda, and Katie Preston, Hampden. GPSA also supported its chief executive officer Darren Arney to be part of the Australian Rural Leadership Program.

4 Mining policy

GPSA, through its Agricultural Security and Priority Committee, responded to a review of mining determinations and guidelines and worked with farmers affected by the Rex Minerals Hillside Project and Warramboe Iron Road Mining Project. These experiences are helping GPSA to develop a mining policy that considers a ban on mining operations on agricultural land, argues for definitive timelines to be set on mining proposals and requests improved communication from mining companies with producers. A draft policy for consultation was released to members at the 2015 Yorke Peninsula Field Days.

5 Genetically modified crops

GPSA has continued to lobby the State Government and Opposition over their support of a ban on genetically modified crops in SA. To keep the issue front-of-mind, GPSA supported a forum on GM crops in June 2015 to facilitate discussion between government and industry partners on how the technology is being used outside SA.

6 Submissions

Governments call for submissions from advocacy groups on issues that will affect their members. GPSA put forward the views of SA grain producers in submissions on issues such as agricultural competitiveness, wind farms, rail access, mining, variety access and supply chain costs.

7 Transport focus

GPSA established a Transport and Supply Chain Committee to review existing grain transport and logistics and to work with government and industry to improve efficiencies – all to benefit grain producers.

8 Emergency Services Levy

GPSA called for the State Government to wind-back the ESL increases for primary producers, saying it is an unfair tax that charges landowners for their work in protecting SA residents, homes and environmental assets from fire and natural disasters.

9 Transport priorities

GPSA partnered with Primary Producers SA and the State Government on a 90-day transport project in which farmers were surveyed on freight and logistics and agricultural machinery movement. A list of issues and hotspots has been compiled for action and will be rolled out as changes to regulations are made.

10 Harvest Code of Practice review

GPSA partnered with the Country Fire Service, Primary Producers SA and the State Government to ensure grain producers views were represented in a review of the South Australian Voluntary Grain Harvesting Code of Practice. The code makes recommendations for on-farm practices such as harvesting on bad fire days and the Grasslands Fire Danger Index. The review is continuing.

Your 2014-15 priorities

Grain Producers SA conducts an annual survey of South Australian growers to determine issues they are experiencing in the industry and how they rate as a priority for their business. The results help GPSA to better advocate for growers and develop policy and submissions on their behalf.

In 2014-15, 278 growers completed the survey. The top 10 issues were:

1. Competition in storage and handling
2. Research, development and extension
3. Competition from grain buyers
4. Truck registration fees
5. Access to GM technology
6. Grain transport and logistics
7. Market development and monitoring
8. Grain contract terms and conditions
9. Access to weighbridges
10. Land use, such as gas/mining versus grain

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2015-16 board members



Garry Hansen

CHAIRMAN, COOMANDOOK

0427 390 626, garry@hansenfarms.com.au



Wade Dabinett

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN, PARILLA

0408 686 092, wade@longtrailfarms.com.au



Stephen Ball

RIVERTON

0407 884 723, farmdog64@bigpond.com



David Malpas

LUCINDALE

0427 058 701, daveange3@bigpond.com



Peter Polkinghorne

CEDUNA

0428 293 693, pjpolk@bigpond.com



Brett Roberts

BALAKLAVA

0417 806 536, blarob@iprimus.com.au



Max Wilksch

YEELANNA

0458 765 055, freedomhills@optusnet.com.au



2014-15 Annual Report Summary

GPSA's mission is to ensure a viable and sustainable industry for South Australian grain producers through leadership, advocacy and communication. This summary outlines how we continued to work on your behalf in 2014-15.

Grower-driven advocacy for a profitable grains industry



26 Hack Street (PO Box 781)
Mount Barker SA 5251

P 1300 734 884

F 1300 734 680

E info@grainproducerssa.com.au

www.grainproducerssa.com.au

