



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

News

JULY 2018

Government commits to GM Review

GPSA has welcomed the news that the State Government will honour its pre-election commitment to commission an independent review into South Australia's moratorium on the growing of genetically-modified crops.

Since the release of a report by Mecardo Market Analysis in March, which showed there were no premiums being delivered to the majority of SA farmers as a result of the state's GM-free status, GPSA has been calling for an independent review into SA's GM moratorium.

In its election policy document, *Five*

keys to unlocking increased profitability in the grain industry for the benefit of all South Australians, GPSA stated that an independent review into the marketing advantage or premium purported to result from SA's GM free status must be conducted within 12 months of the March 2018 election.

GPSA's position is that grain producers should have the freedom to grow whatever crops best suit their business. The current moratorium on genetically modified crops is constraining business growth, and hence growth of the industry and its contribution to SA.

Read the Mecardo report on the GPSA website:
www.grainproducerssa.com.au



New look, new home for GPSA

Grain Producers SA has a new home, relocating from its old office in Mt Barker to a new office in Adelaide's Central Business District. To coincide with the move, the GPSA logo has also undergone a change to reflect a new standard of professionalism in grower advocacy and representation.

GPSA chief executive officer Caroline Rhodes says the organisation's new

look and new home sets the scene for what will be a period of new direction in the coming months.

She says the organisation is currently in the process of finalising its mission, vision and corporate values statements which will be presented to members along with a new strategic plan at the GPSA AGM, to be held as part of GROWING SA on 14 September at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf.

GPSA's new tag line is "The voice of

South Australian growers". Ms Rhodes says this reflects what GPSA does every day for SA growers – provides a voice beyond the farm gate to a wider audience including politicians and other industry stakeholders.

Find GPSA at Level 2, 180 Flinders Street Adelaide or by post at PO Box 7069 Hutt Street, Adelaide SA 5000.

Take a look at our new brand on our website:
grainproducerssa.com.au

Registrations open for GROWING SA

GPSA and Livestock SA have again combined to pull together a cracking program for GROWING SA, with registrations for the conference now open.

Delegates will hear from Tim Whetstone, Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development, who will outline the changing policy settings on key issues in South Australia and how the industry will be encouraged to grow and develop

over the next three years to 2022.

Also presenting at GROWING SA will be Canadian scientist Dr Stuart Smyth from the University of Saskatchewan. Dr Smyth's research focuses on innovation and agriculture and the resulting impacts.

He was part of a group of academics which received \$5.4 million in funding over five years in 2009 from Genome Canada to examine the genomic,

economic, environmental, ethical, legal and social issues pertaining to bioproducts and biofuels.

At GROWING SA, Dr Smyth will outline how genetically modified crops have revolutionised the production systems and marketing options for Canadian growers.

For the full program and to register go to
www.growingsa.com.au

Permit process to undergo review

The Federal Government has announced an independent review of the regulatory framework around permits for oversize overmass (OSOM) vehicle movements on Australian roads.

This announcement has been welcomed by GPSA as a step towards improving permit processing and approval times and getting heavy transport moving more efficiently.

In SA, owners and drivers of heavy vehicles operate under an applicable Gazette Notice. If the operating requirements cannot be met by a Gazette Notice, then an application must be made to obtain a permit.

The Department of Planning Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) is currently managing the return of processing permits for certain heavy vehicle access types to the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR). For example, for an OSOM permit to travel within the ACT, SA, TAS or VIC, operators must apply through the NHVR online portal.

Following a number of complaints from members, GPSA's Transport and Supply Chain Committee has become increasingly concerned about the length of time taken and recurring costs of the processing of applications for road network access.

These complaints relate to the way permits are processed, which usually involves multiple levels of government and no flexibility when it comes to uncertainties about road safety and infrastructure protection, such as roads and bridges.

GPSA has discussed these issues with NHVR and developed a positive working relationship in assisting members to gain route access.

Consultancy firm WSP Australia will undertake the review, which will examine and make findings to be completed by October 2018 and a report to be provided to Transport Ministers for consideration soon after.

Through informal feedback and telephone conversations, WSP want to gather information about individual experiences of heavy vehicle operators when applying for permits.

Those who wish to provide feedback on their experiences for the review are encouraged to email WSP Australia's Pascal Felix or Kieran Cook on pascal.felix@wsp.com or kieran.cook@wsp.com.

Shane Gale, GPSA Policy Officer
shane@grainproducerssa.com.au



Red tape reduction

GPSA commends the action taken by the Port Pirie Regional Council (PPRC) to reduce red tape for heavy vehicle operators in the area.

Following requests from transporters and growers for more road train access on local roads to enhance productivity, PPRC promptly engaged a qualified traffic engineer to carry out the route assessments.

Several roads were identified as suitable for 30m and 36.5m road train commodity access and were recommended to PPRC to allow access. Some roads will require improvements to reduce the risk rating to enable access.

This well-thought-out process for 30-metre road train routes, which is expected to be finalised soon, allows selected routes

for 30m road trains to be preapproved for permits. Typically, permit application is an area of red tape that is particularly burdensome and complex costing transport operators and growers time and money.

To further enhance local productivity PPRC has also proposed that 328km be endorsed for gazettal for 36.5m road train commodity access.

This action by PPRC illustrates how red tape can be reduced on business, the community and the wider economy.

Please find a link to the Council report for road train access. The report is agenda item 16.2.3 starting on page 302: <https://tinyurl.com/pprc2018>

Shane Gale, GPSA Policy Officer
shane@grainproducerssa.com.au

Update on MPCl Stamp Duty Exemptions

Growers will be able to claim a refund of the stamp duty payable on multi-peril crop insurance (MPCl) policies following approval from the South Australian Treasurer.

These refunds will be on a case-by-case basis, backdated to 1 January 2018.

Stamp duty exemption on MPCl had bi-partisan support prior to the March 2018 State Election but requires an amendment to the Stamp Duties Act 1923. Given the timing of the Mid-Year Budget Review and the State Election, the required legislative amendments were not introduced into Parliament prior to the election.

It is expected that the amendment will be introduced in the second half of 2018.

Removal of the stamp duty on MPCl products makes them much more affordable for producers to consider them as part of their risk management tool kit.

GPSA is reminding growers that MPCl is just one risk management tool. Growers are encouraged to consider a variety of risk management tools and options before deciding on what is right for their business.

Refunds of the stamp duty payable on MPCl are only available by applying in writing to RevenueSA. Applicants for the refund will need to provide details of the relevant policy number, the premium and duty paid and evidence that such duty has been refunded to the policy holder.

Trudy Huczko, GPSA Policy Officer
trudy@grainproducerssa.com.au

Visit GPSA at the EP Field Days

Grain producers attending the Eyre Peninsula Field Days next month are encouraged to visit the GPSA site to raise industry issues with board members and hear about recent advocacy work.

GPSA will be exhibiting alongside Livestock SA with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, SafeWork SA, Ag Excellence Alliance, Rural Business Support and the Office of the Small Business Commissioner.

Government and industry representatives will also be in attendance to hear from producers, including a visit by Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone.

Growers will also be able to pick up reflectors made available courtesy of SA Power Networks which can be attached to stobie poles on their property to help reduce the risk of collision at night.

GPSA will be exhibiting at site 345 8th Street, Cleve.

