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MEDIA RELEASE

## Donations open for grain to fire-affected farmers

GRAIN Producers SA and Primary Producers SA are setting up a National Grower Register number for farmers wanting to donate grain to graziers affected by fires around the state last week.

GPSA chief executive Darren Arney says the organisations are seeking expressions of interest for grain donations only at this point to PPSA so supply can be matched with demand from graziers.

“The NGR number will enable growers or traders who have grain in warehouses that has not yet been sold to make a donation to people who have lost pastures and fodder in the fires. Growers who have grain on-farm can also register it with PPSA,” he said.

“The bulk handlers have offered to swap donations between sites so if warehoused grain is donated from the Eyre Peninsula or Mid North, it can be out-turned locally, such as at Roseworthy or Apamurra. This eliminates a huge part of the freight cost in getting the grain to where it is most needed so the bulk handlers involved deserve thanks and recognition for that.”

Mr Arney says fencing materials are also needed by many graziers.

“A lot of croppers would have pulled out fences in the past 10 years and they might have posts sitting around which could be reused. Any grower who wants to donate fencing items should contact PPSA as well,” he said.

PPSA chairman Rob Kerin says many graziers have lost pastures so there is demand for fodder and stock agistment, particularly in the Eden Valley and Rockleigh areas.

“Some croppers may be prepared to offer stubble paddocks up for agistment,” Mr Kerin said. “This may work well for graziers who can then use fodder and grain donations when sheep come back to their properties as croppers start to prepare paddocks for the growing season ahead.

“Any offers of assistance from grain growers who can lend a hand to help graziers get their properties back up and running again would also be gratefully received.”

**Grain growers wanting to donate grain, fodder, agistment and fencing materials or would like to volunteer their time can register with Primary Producers SA on 08 8297 0899.**

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**GPSA interview contact:**  
Darren Arney  
GPSA chief executive officer  
0448 186 707

**PPSA interview contact:**  
Rob Kerin  
PPSA chairman  
0439 933 103