



# Grain Producers SA

## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, September 12, 2014

## GPSA welcomes new board members at AGM

MEMBERS of Grain Producers SA have elected two new directors and returned two renominating directors to the organisation's board, announced yesterday at its annual general meeting in Adelaide.

New members to the board include David Malpas, Lucindale, and Stephen Ball, Riverton. Returned directors include Max Wilksch, Yeelanna, and Wade Dabinett, Parilla, who was previously a board-appointed director. Directors continuing for a further year include Brett Roberts and Peter Polkinghorne.

Chairman Garry Hansen thanked members who voted in the election and all the candidates for seeking to be involved in the organisation on behalf of growers.

"GPSA received five nominations for four board director positions which reflects a solid interest from producers in the organisation and its advocacy work on their behalf," he said.

"Members had a difficult decision to make because all candidates are incredibly experienced but a special thank you to David Brown, Naracoorte, for his nomination. GPSA also acknowledges the contributions of retiring directors Mark Schilling and Malcolm Sargent who have both been integral to the organisation since it started."

**Grain Producers SA released the results of its recent 2014 Grower Priorities Survey at the AGM, which found producers' number one issue was the need for more competition in grain storage and handling.**

The survey had 222 responses to September 9 and the issues were ranked in order of priority for GPSA's attention:

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
11. Access to farm inputs
12. Growers consultation
13. On-farm OHS&W
14. Biofuel
15. Grain pool performance and transparency
16. Grain stewardship program
17. Farmer stewardship program

“The post-farmgate costs remain farmers’ major concern and continue to increase at a greater rate than inflation,” Mr Hansen said. “We regularly seek input from growers on where we should be directing our efforts through a range of means, such as surveys, forums and direct liaison with growers.

“In a similar survey in 2012, growers rated these issues however in this survey, there has been greater focus on the need for tighter contracts with grain buyers and access to the latest technology, such as genetically-modified crops. New to the list are competing land use issues and farmer stewardship, which were ranked lower down the list.

“These issues will inform the focus of GPSA in the coming year through our annual operating plan and we will continue to seek the input of growers as we advocate to the industry and government on their behalf.”

**ENDS**

**For interviews:**

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For more information on Grain Producers SA and its policies, visit [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) or get in touch on 08 8391 6621 or email [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)

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**About Grain Producers SA:**

*Grain Producers SA is a not-for-profit organisation that represents all levy-paying grain producers in South Australia. GPSA’s objective is to foster the development and implementation of policies that promote the economic and environmental sustainability of the South Australian grains industry for the benefit of its producers and the wider community. Growers are encouraged to have their say on policy and have input on the people who represent them.*

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