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Forums focus on better road access for grain freight

Grain Producers SA and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator are working together to improve road access for the grain transport industry by helping councils to streamline route assessments for freight efficiency.

With SA's grain harvest about to ramp up, GPSA and NHVR are jointly coordinating seven forums for government and regional council groups designed to improve truck access on roads across the state.

Forums have been held in the Mallee, Mid North and Eyre Peninsula, with more to be held after harvest too. They will feature representatives from GPSA, NHVR, SA Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, Livestock & Rural Transporters Association and the Eyre Peninsula Local Government Association, and other industry groups.

GPSA Chief Executive Officer Darren Arney says improved road access is the result of collaboration between all stakeholders, and all partners in the project deserved commendation.

"Our members have raised transport and supply chain costs as one of their top priorities to address," Mr Arney said. "Streamlining routes will likely see a reduction in these costs which will flow back to grain producers' profitability while improving safety with less truck movements and contributing to reducing wear and tear on road infrastructure.

"This work follows the excellent progress made on the *90-Day Change @ SA Improving Road Transport for the Agriculture Industry Project* between industry and government.

"GPSA acknowledges the support shown for improving freight efficiency by Minister for Transport Stephen Mullighan, Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell and Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock, along with their departments."

NHVR Industry and Stakeholder Manager John Gilbert said the forums would assist regional councils to streamline route assessments for their freight task, and in particular the upcoming grain harvest next month.

"Increasing awareness and understanding of road access issues through collaboration among councils is a win-win situation for both the freight industry and local economies," Mr Gilbert said.

"The productivity gains and reduction in truck movements for the local community will be the ultimate result."

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