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SA Grain Producers Disappointed in further cuts to Research

Grain Producers SA CEO, Darren Arney, expressed disappointment with further state government cuts to PIRSA and SARDI.

“Grain production is one of the most significant industries in South Australia, contributing around \$2 billion in export earnings to the state” said Mr Arney.

“South Australian grain producers have placed a high priority of grains research, development and extension (RD&E) as increases in productivity have to some extent mitigated the cost price squeeze being experienced over the past few decades” said Mr Arney.

South Australian grain producers support two RD&E contribution schemes, the GRDC research levy of 1% and the SAGIT contribution of 30 cents per tonne. Through these two mechanisms growers contribute around \$25 million annually to RD&E from South Australia, with a significant portion flowing from these funds back into PIRSA and SARDI to conduct the RD&E.

Additionally grain producers pay seed companies End Point Royalties of approximately \$10 - \$15 million annually which in turn is used by those companies to fund RD&E.

Many growers also employ Farm Consultants and Agronomists to gain leading edge information and to conduct on farm trials to improve production, efficiency and quality.

Finally grain producers contribute to farming systems groups and provide land, to enable RD&E not just for production enhancement but also into sustainable farming systems and conservation.

“It is a bit difficult to quantify the total annual spend on R,D&E by South Australian grain producers, however an estimate of somewhere between \$40 to \$45 million annually wouldn't be too far off the mark” said Mr Arney.

About Grain Producers SA Limited

GPSA is a not-for-profit, South Australian organisation, seeking to improve the profitability and sustainability of all grain producers in South Australia.

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