



Grain  
Producers SA

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, March 21, 2014

## SABAC calls for grower members with barley focus

THE SOUTH Australian Barley Advisory Committee is seeking expressions of interest from grain growers across the state to be part of the group.

Committee members include growers, grain buyers, brewers, maltsters, breeders, marketers, bulk handlers, researchers and retailers. SABAC is a sub-committee of Grain Producers SA, which provides funding and administrative support for grower involvement.

SABAC Chairman Greg Schulz, Maitland, says there are three vacancies for growers on the committee, which will meet in Adelaide on Monday, March 31.

“We are looking for grower members in all grain producing areas of South Australia and encourage if anyone is interested, or would like to attend the meeting to see what is involved, to contact GPSA,” he said.

“The committee is important because it brings together all players in the barley industry from pre-breeding through production to marketing and end-users – and because of the wide representation, communication is increased between all sectors.

“One of the committee’s increasing roles is to inform which varieties are preferred by the industry – from the perspective of growers in disease and agronomic traits through to end users such as maltsters looking for best malt performance.”

The group meets twice a year in August and April where members provide updates on new and potential varieties, research, market and consumer requirements, topical seasonal issues such as agronomy and storage and handling logistics.

“SABAC is great forum for all sectors of the barley industry to discuss and share information for the benefit of the whole value chain. With the right approach, members can get far more out of the information exchange than what they contribute,” he said.

A key topic of the March meeting will be whether the industry would benefit from ‘informed varietal choices’. These are not specific recommendations on which varieties to grow but could include information for growers on variety specific agronomy through to demand for variety and quality requirements of end users and consumers.

“Growers could then use this information to make more informed decisions around rotations on their properties,” Mr Schulz said.

“There are a huge number of varieties available to growers so the committee will discuss what kind of information growers require to make variety choice decisions. It can be confusing to decide what is best to grow agronomically and matching it with what is required by end users and consumers and what segregations will be available at the nearest receival centre. Also, some older varieties might need to be reconsidered because they are not achieving the same financial return as newer varieties.”

- **More information:** Barley growers interested in SABAC or the meeting can contact Belinda Ryan, GPSA, on 08 8391 6621 or email [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)

ENDS

For interviews contact SA Barley Advisory Committee chairman Greg Schulz on 0418 859 612.

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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