

Merry  
Christmas

& Happy New Year  
to you



Grain  
Producers SA

News

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2017

## Call for all growers to respond to Mining Act review

By **DARREN ARNEY**  
CEO, Grain Producers SA



**Grain growers have one of the biggest opportunities in the industry's history to be able to influence and respond to a review of South Australia's Mining Acts.**

The impacts of mining and mining exploration on agricultural land is significant. Any grain grower who has mining activity on their land would attest to the fact it can be a stressful and emotional issue to deal with. While your property may not directly be under a lease right now, there is potential that it may be subject to one in future which is why we need as many growers as possible to be involved in the review.

Grain Producers SA has been successful in negotiating an extension to the closing date for the review to February 24, 2017. This gives growers time to consider the contents of the review – once it is released.

Earlier this year, the State Government announced the Leading Practice Mining Acts Review of the *Mines and*

*Works Inspection Act 1920*, the *Mining Act 1971* and the *Opal Mining Act 1995* with the view to introducing a bill to Parliament in 2017.

There will be a discussion paper on each of these three acts, with the most important one for agriculture being the *Mining Act 1971*, which is due to open before the end of December.

This is a crucial issue for the industry's future and we encourage growers to get onto the government's Your Say website and get involved – if not for yourself, then for other growers who are struggling against mining claims at present. While GPSA will also compile a submission, it will be for the overarching industry and your own personal story or views should be put forward to explain your own concerns in your own words.

During the government's consultation period, GPSA will be conducting grower consultation meetings in 2017 and we encourage as many as possible to attend. These will be held at Wudinna and Cummins on January 31, Maitland on February 2 and at Murray Bridge on February 3.

**Details:** To have your say, visit <http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engagements-mining-laws/about>

### Have your say



1. Log onto [www.yoursay.sa.gov.au](http://www.yoursay.sa.gov.au)
2. Search for the piece called 'Leading Practice Mining Acts Review of South Australia's Mining Laws'
3. Look specifically for Discussion Paper 2 on the Mining Act 1971 – due to open in December
4. Feedback can be provided in the 'get involved' section or by submission to [DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au](mailto:DSD.miningactreview@sa.gov.au)
5. Attend GPSA's consultation meetings in 2017

## Work health and safety focus of roadshow

**Primary Producers SA, Grain Producers SA and SafeWorkSA will be conducting the Work Health and Safety Roadshow in early 2017.**

It involves a series of regional workshops designed to present the themes of the new WHS Guidebook for Farmers, launched in September, directly to farmers.

The workshops will cover requirements of farmers in terms of WHS policies, duties and obligations, employing or contracting staff, safe work practices, hazard identification in the workplace and risk assessment. Each workshop is aimed at creating a local WHS network for ongoing community support.

Dates and locations in early 2017 include:

- February 28 – Cummins and Minnipa

- March 1 – Kimba
  - March 2 – Clare and Maitland
  - March 22 – Lamerook
  - March 23 – Keith and Naracoorte
- More locations will be promoted in 2017.*

**Details:** Stay tuned for more information to be posted under events on [GPSA's website](http://GPSA's website). Download the guidebook from [GPSA's website](http://GPSA's website) or call the office for a hard copy.

# Adrian new director for GPSA

**The Board of Grain Producers SA has appointed Mid North grain grower Adrian McCabe (pictured) as a director of the organisation.**

Adrian grows wheat, canola, beans and durum at Hamley Bridge, where his predecessors were the first settlers. He is a board member of the Southern Durum Growers Association, a member of Fat Farmers and previously a member of the SA Farmers Federation.

Mr McCabe says he joined the board because he is keen to see the grain industry getting the credit it deserves as one of the biggest industries in South Australia.

"In being part of the board, I felt it was the right time of life with children away at school and not having any

commitments to junior sport, I have been freed up to have more time to contribute to industry," he said.

"I believe we need to be further advocating for grain as a massive contributor to the state's economy. We need to be lobbying for what country SA needs and we need to educate political parties to make change so that they know what our priorities are."

Mr McCabe says transport is a key issue for grain producers and new work under the *90-Day Change @ SA Improving Road Transport for the Agriculture Industry Project* was an exciting step forward.

"The change in our ability to move machinery at night and ability to move larger trucks in and out of major receival sites has been a step



forward. The project demonstrates the capacity we have to effectively work with government departments, such as the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure, on key issues impacting growers," he said.

GPSA Chairman Wade Dabinett welcomed Mr McCabe to the board, which was now at its full complement following the retirement of Max Wilksch earlier in the year.

Mr McCabe joins existing directors Stephen Ball, Andrew Goode, Garry Hansen, David Malpas, Peter Polkinghorne and Brett Roberts.

## Know Your Code to reduce fire risk

**Grain Producers SA and the Country Fire Service are encouraging grain growers to do an on-farm check this harvest to ensure they are meeting required actions under the *Grain Harvesting Code of Practice*.**

GPSA and CFS are promoting a new campaign for growers to 'Know Your Code' to determine when grain harvesting and handling should occur in the paddock, including operating grain harvesters, vehicles involved in grain transport, and grain dryers and augers.

The code states that growers need to:

- Monitor weather conditions and forecasts to stop harvest when the local actual Grassland Fire Danger Index exceeds 35.
- Remove crop residues on machines.
- Regularly maintain machinery before and during harvest, particularly wearing parts and bearings, and keep maintenance records.
- Reduce build-up of static electricity on machinery during harvest.
- Have a well maintained farm fire-fighting unit with a minimum of 250 litres of water in the same paddock.
- Establish fire breaks around paddocks or across the property.
- Ensure all farm staff are bushfire ready with the correct fire-fighting clothing and equipment and that there is a fire prevention and emergency response strategy in place.



- Have immediate access to a UHF CB radio or mobile phone to report emergencies.

GFDI is a mathematical relationship between air temperature, relative humidity and wind speed and is impacted by the curing factor, or greenness, of vegetation. It means a fire in conditions where the GFDI is 35 or above is unlikely to be controlled by a harvest operator's fire-fighting resources.

It is designed to be determined in the paddock and used in conjunction with other fire risk management measures, as outlined in the code. When it comes to calculating the GFDI, growers should at least use a hand-held weather

meter to measure wind speed and local conditions, together with the Code of Practice and its Grain Harvesting Operations Table.

Data can be used from automated weather stations – such as through the Bureau of

Meteorology or NRM Boards – but note that these take wind speed measurements at 10 metres for bushfire management purposes. There is a range of smartphone apps available as well for GFDI calculation.

**Details:** [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) or 1300 734 884

## In brief

### Disaster resilience grants open

The Natural Disaster Resilience Program is open for applications from community organisations, not for profits and local and state government for projects that improve capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters and emergency events or for supporting emergency management volunteers. Up to \$250,000 per annum can be sought as a contribution toward the total cost of each project, which must start on or before July 2017 and be completed within two years. Applications close at 5pm on January 13, 2017.

**Details:** Guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from [www.safecom.sa.gov.au](http://www.safecom.sa.gov.au) or contact the NDRP Coordinator to discuss ideas on 08 8463 4147 [ndrpcoordinator@sa.gov.au](mailto:ndrpcoordinator@sa.gov.au)

### Weather meter winners

Congratulations to the recent winners of Kestrel weather meters for completing GPSA's two annual surveys, including:

- 2016 Post-Harvest Survey - **Anthony Franklin, Butler**
- 2016 Grower Priorities Survey - **David Treasure, Gladstone**

