

## New call for primary production transport hotspots in joint govt, industry project

**All primary producers are encouraged to have their say on road transport issues constraining productivity and route access as part of the second stage of the 90-day Change@SA Transport Project.**

Stage 2 involves a new survey for primary producers to raise freight issues and opens the door for more industry sectors to be involved which may not have fully participated in the first project, such as forestry, dairy, fresh produce, fisheries and aquaculture.

Primary Producers SA Chairman Rob Kerin says the project could deliver at least \$100 million per year in savings to the agricultural industry.

“This project is a success story of industry and government working together to help improve transport conditions that can have a real impact on individual producer’s productivity,” he said.

“As a result of the first project, \$56 million in productivity gains have been made and many access issues have been cleared up, such as using larger combinations to move grain from silo to port, enabling road train access to some saleyards and night movement of machinery less than 4 metres wide.”

The project is a collaboration between PPSA, Primary Industries and Regions SA and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure. The 90-day transport project first began in late 2014, when producers and transport industry operators were surveyed and a raft of issues constraining productivity identified.



*Pictured at the transport announcement are Minister for Transport and Infrastructure Stephen Mullighan, Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell, Minister for Regional Development Geoff Brock and Stradbroke Farm owner Scott Roberts.*

“With the first survey, some people were not aware of the project or were not sure about participating but the issues that were first identified have been addressed and many already acted on. Initially, there were 700 responses so this is a second chance for people who do want to raise issues to be involved,” Mr Kerin said.

“The new survey asks producers to identify transport issues constraining productivity or to contribute ideas on safely improving productivity through infrastructure upgrades or changes to regulation or policy. Also on the table are existing and potential commodity consolidation points, such as distribution depots, and processing and packing sheds and plants.

Among the 50 projects already complete are:

- Enabling road train access to the grain facility at Roseworthy.
- Enabling road train and B double access to the Jamestown saleyards.
- The introduction of permits to allow movement of oversize or overmass agricultural machinery at night.
- The introduction of quad road trains between Port Augusta and the Northern Territory border.
- The introduction of tri-axle dollies for use in road train combinations.
- The introduction of a primary production work diary exemption.

The survey closes on May 15 and is available online at [www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/agtransport)

## In brief

### Working group explores harvester fire research

Grain Producers Australia (GPA) says reports of insurance no longer being available to contract harvesters due to fire risk are exaggerated, following a meeting between GPA's Grains Policy Council, GRDC, Australian Custom Harvesters (ACH) and representatives of major insurance providers to explore the issue.

GPA president Andrew Weidemann said the clear message was that insurance continues to be available for contractors and growers, regardless of whether they are harvesting cereals, oilseeds, pulses or any other grain crop.

"With the agreement of all parties, GPA has undertaken to form a working group with farming representatives, insurers, ACH representatives and researchers to identify key research issues and to guide and prioritise that research, as well as helping information flow to where it is needed," he said.

"In the meantime the very clear message from the insurers is it is 'business as usual' – each farming or harvesting business wanting insurance presents a different situation, claims history and risk analysis, so the opportunity is there for anyone with concerns to talk to one or more insurance providers, both about what products may be offered and what they individually do to minimise and manage fire risk."

### Churchill applications open for rural study

A national award scheme that flies people to destinations across the globe in search of new ideas, innovation and excellence is encouraging more people living or working in rural and regional South Australia to apply.

Churchill Fellowships are presented to more than 100 ordinary Australians each year so they can travel independently anywhere in the world to explore a topic or issue that they are passionate about.

Applicants can propose a project on any topic providing there is likely to be a benefit beyond their own paddock or agribusiness, as long as they are willing to share the knowledge gained. In 2017, several specific Fellowships are also available related to agriculture, fisheries and rural communities.

Applications close April 28, 2017, for Churchill Fellowships to travel between February 1, 2018, and January 31, 2019.

**Details:** Visit [www.churchilltrust.com.au](http://www.churchilltrust.com.au)

## Discussion to start on Leading Practice Mining Acts Review

### Increasing recognition of the rights of grain producers as landowners is at the centre of Grain Producers SA's submission to the State Government's review of mining laws in South Australia.

Submissions recently closed in the State Government's Leading Practice Mining Acts Review – conducted by the Department of State Development (DSD).

Given only 4.6% of SA's land is available for cultivation and agricultural production, the ability to be able to protect this land for future production is a priority for GPSA.

Grain Producers SA CEO Darren Arney says farmers have been hard done by for many years under the current arrangements and GPSA's submission highlights what it believes are deficiencies in the Mining Act 1971 and regulations.

"We see this as an opportunity to begin discussion with DSD and others about our views on how the Mining Act must be improved to better acknowledge the rights of landowners and the production value of our industry to the state's economy," he said.

"Primary production generates \$18.6 billion a year in revenue with an estimated \$40 billion invested in SA in freehold land.

"While GPSA continues to support the State Government's strategic priority of 'premium food and wine from our clean environment', we hope this is reflected in the review process as changes to important legislation are made."

GPSA is seeking the following changes to the Mining Act 1971:

- Landholders should have the right of veto, so new exploration or a mine cannot proceed without the approval of the landowner.
- All court costs and other costs incurred by the landowner should be met by the miner.
- Mining companies should pay an uplift above market rates of at least three times the market value for the

property. Landowners of adjacent land who believe their properties will be devalued should also be compensated at the same rate.

- A proportion of royalties over and above the state's allocation should be given back to the community based on the economic value of the land. This would recognise the productive capacity of the land that will be lost and acknowledge the investment made by the community in establishing and maintaining infrastructure.
- There should be enforceable timeframes for mines to be up and running with no extensions, giving landowners certainty to develop or exit their businesses.
- The required Program for Environment Protection and Rehabilitation (PEPR) should be broadened to include a social, environmental and economic assessment to include the impacts on the business and community.
- The compliance powers of government should be increased to compel mining companies to meet their obligations, funded by the miners on a cost-recovery basis.

In addition, GPSA is seeking a new, government-funded role of 'Mining Industry Executive Manager' to be situated within Primary Producers SA. This independent role will provide information and support to farmers faced with exploration or mining land access issues and providing a direct link for answers.

"GPSA still holds concerns about the timing of the review and the rushed nature of the consultation process, where feedback was sought during a record harvest – also grain producers' busiest time of year. We also would have preferred the review be conducted by an independent panel, as given DSD's role as both promoter and regulator of the mining industry, we feel that independence cannot be guaranteed."

**Details:** Download a summary of the submission and the full document at [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au)