

GPSA calls for board member nominations



The current GPSA board includes Wade Dabinett, Garry Hansen, CEO Darren Arney, Peter Polkinghorne, Malcolm Sargent (back), Brett Roberts, Mark Schilling, Gary Flohr and Max Wilksch.

GRAIN Producers SA is seeking nominations from producers for four vacant board member positions and for the role of chairman, all for a two-year term.

GPSA chief executive officer Darren Arney says board members whose terms are expiring include Garry Hansen, Mark Schilling, Malcolm Sargent and Max Wilksch. Board members continuing for another term include Brett Roberts, Peter Polkinghorne and Wade Dabinett. The GPSA Constitution outlines the board can include six directors plus a chairman. The board can also appoint two independent directors.

Mr Arney encouraged growers to consider joining the management of GPSA to contribute to the industry's future. Board members attend eight meetings in Adelaide or regional South Australia and participate in telephone conferences as needed.

"There is also the opportunity to represent GPSA nationally on other commodity or issue groups to

communicate South Australia's views at a higher level," he said. "In the event that there are more nominations than positions available, GPSA will conduct a vote. Only members are eligible to vote for directors – or to nominate in the first place – so if you are unsure whether you are a member of GPSA or not, please contact the office as soon as possible."

Nominations close at 5pm on Thursday, August 21, 2014.

Producers must complete a nomination form – available online at www.grainproducerssa.com.au or by contacting the office on 1300 734 884.

**GPSA Annual
General Meeting**

**Thursday, Sept 11
9.30am to 3.30pm,**

followed by networking drinks

Adelaide Festival Centre

RSVP for catering

Key issues on agenda at AGM

By **GARRY HANSEN**
GPSA Chairman



THE Grain Producers SA Annual General Meeting is a great opportunity to direct the organisation's advocacy efforts and have your say on the issues that are affecting you.

The opening address will be delivered by Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell who will take questions from members. Shadow Minister David Ridgway will speak later in the day. There will be an extended facilitated session to wrap up the AGM where growers can add their own issues for GPSA action.

Key issues on the agenda include Viterra storage and handling plans for season 2014-15, GPSA's work on cross-commodity issues infringing on farming such as mining, fracking and housing development, and the risks to our international markets of chemical residues in grain.

One example of GPSA's action on cross-commodity issues that impact grain production has been the Rex Minerals mine proposal near Ardrossan, which received the go-ahead last month. GPSA has been very vocal in its opposition to the decision, with extensive coverage of our views in the metropolitan media.

We will be discussing this issue and many others at the AGM and we look forward to hearing your thoughts on the 12 months ahead.

Read the full GPSA statement on the Rex Minerals approval at <http://bit.ly/1oQqPUP>

Don't forget to fill out GPSA's latest online grower survey to go into the draw to win a Kestrel 3500 DT pocket weather meter.

> The survey is available at www.grainproducerssa.com.au under 'What's new'



Right-to-farm focus key for ASAP group

ADVOCATING for the continued use of prime farming land for agricultural production is the key aim of the Agricultural Security and Priority Committee – a recently-formed GPSA sub-committee.

The ASAP Committee was established this year following a resolution at the 2013 GPSA Annual General Meeting that more action was needed on issues with potential to impact prime agricultural land and production.

The committee is chaired by GPSA director Max Wilksch, Yeelanna, with seven members and an expert consultant. It consults with grain growers and works closely with Primary Producers SA, which has overall responsibility for cross-commodity issues.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney says the committee's key aim is to advocate for the right to farm by making informed recommendations and providing relevant and timely information for consideration by the GPSA board.



Agricultural Security and Priority Committee expert consultant and Mellor Olsson lawyer Andrew Goode with members YP grower Naomi Bittner, GPSA director Mark Schilling, YP grower Brenton Davey, GPSA policy officer Trudy Huczko, GPSA CEO Darren Arney, GPSA director Max Wilksch, Barossa producer Peter Grocke, and PPSA policy officer Amy Williams.

"While the committee is pro-crop production, it must account for the differing views of its members and recognise that a one-size-fits-all policy may not be practicable for all issues," he said. "But regardless of the issue, the committee believes in protecting the value of farm assets and the health and wellbeing of farmers at all costs.

"The committee provides an important contact point within GPSA for growers affected by competing land use conflicts because in many instances, they do not know who to call or where to turn to for information or assistance. As directed

by the board, the committee responds to producers' requests to support the argument that they have a right to continue farming in future."

Issues currently under review by the committee include the Ceres Windfarm Project, Rex Minerals Hillside Project, Warrambo Iron Road Mining Project and continued access to herbicides for grain production.

Contact GPSA policy officer Trudy Huczko regarding cross-commodity issues impacting grain production, 0499 734 001, trudy@grainproducerssa.com.au

Know your new obligations for industrial relations

CHANGES to employment legislation took effect on July 1 and include adjustments to wages, superannuation and casual loading.

For the first full pay period after July 1:

- > Wages under all Federal awards increased by 3 percent while allowances were also adjusted.
- > The superannuation contribution increased from 9.25pc to 9.5pc. It will continue to rise until it reaches 12pc on July 1, 2019.
- > The transitional casual loading increased from 24pc to 25pc for workplaces which were bound by a state award before January 1, 2010, such as the *Pastoral Industry (South Australia) Award*. The casual loading remains at 25pc for other employers.

MERS' Chas Cini says farm businesses may be subject to random audits

of time and wage records by the Fair Work Ombudsman, which had occurred recently in the horticulture industry.

He says the information under scrutiny includes employment details, such as:

- > The names of employees and the employer's name and ABN.
- > If the employee is full-time, part-time or casual and their pay rate, including gross and net amounts and deductions.
- > Any loadings, monetary allowances, bonuses, incentive-based payments, penalty rates or other entitlements paid that can be singled out.
- > If there is an overtime penalty rate or loading, the number of hours of overtime worked, or when the employee started and finished working overtime.
- > Hours worked if the employee works casually or irregular part-time hours and is guaranteed a pay rate set by

reference to a period of time worked.

- > If an employer and employee have agreed to average the employee's work hours, then a copy of the written agreement, including an Individual Flexibility Arrangement Agreement, must be able to be provided. If the agreement is terminated, a copy of the termination.

"The penalties for non-compliance with the ombudsman can include prosecution and fines, payment of under-payments plus interest and of course, legal expenses," he said. "To establish the correct rate of pay, producers can visit the GPSA website."

GPSA members can access discounted industrial relations services through MERS.

The first 30 minutes are free, followed by a reduced hourly rate. Contact Chas Cini, 08 8331 2422, chas@mers.com.au