

## Grower feedback rolls in on harvest review



Don Plowman, Wheat Quality Australia, with Maitland growers Greg Schulz and Max Young at the Yorke Peninsula meeting.

**GRAIN Producers SA has been collating feedback on harvest and key issues facing the industry in a harvest-in-review survey and series of meetings around the state.**

During February, GPSA held meetings at Murray Bridge, Riverton, Parilla, Gladstone and Maitland – with more meetings to come in other parts of the state during 2015.

GPSA policy officer Tim Burrow says the message from producers was that while harvest ran relatively smoothly, there was room for improvement by the bulk handlers.

One of the key issues raised in the Mallee was the future of the Genesee & Wyoming Australia-operated rail line. GPSA's survey found that 75 percent of producers from the Eyre Peninsula and Mallee believed there would be 'some' or a 'major' effect on their business if rail lines closed.

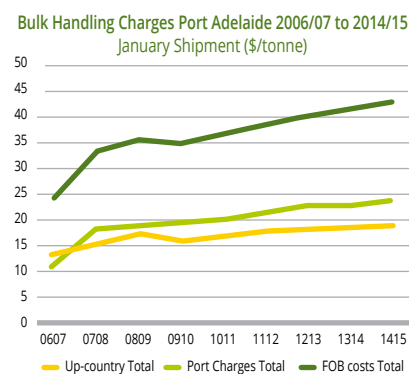
"Feedback from growers at the Parilla meeting to GWA was that a decision on the railway sooner, rather than later, would enable business planning to occur. They wanted to see a plan for the future over the next 10 years rather than reactive management of the situation as it unfolded.

"They are also seeking a guarantee that if rail goes, then costs of road freight will not rise out of control."

A number of harvest issues were raised at the meetings including ongoing concerns about the high cost of getting grain from the farmgate to the ship (see graph).

"This was exacerbated by an ongoing increase in fees across the board, such as for the emergency services levy.

"Growers also remain concerned about pricing at strategic sites and the exposure their businesses have should freight prices continue to increase, as they have in recent years."



### Survey Snapshot

- > 278 grain producers completed the survey, up from 175 in 2013-14.
- > Growers delivered 7.6 million tonnes to storage. In the survey, the proportion of tonnes grown was mixed:
  - 21 percent harvested less than 1000t.
  - 35pc from 1000-3000t.
  - 24pc from 3000-5000t.

- 10pc from 5000-7000t.
- 10pc more than 7000t.
- > Most growers delivered all grain direct to a storage and handling facility during harvest, relying on grain harvest logistics. Only 13pc of respondents stored more than 20pc of their crop on-farm after harvest.
- > In rating the bulk handler's overall performance, 88pc of respondents

- rated Grainflow good to excellent compared with 68pc for Viterra.
- > Growers were critical of Viterra's staffing expertise, classification consistency, suitability of opening hours, length of turnaround time and available segregations – all rated below 60pc. Grainflow rated below 60pc for the number of buyers available at the site.

# Don't pay the ultimate price with workplace safety on your farm

**HERE'S a sobering statistic – children who live on farms are more likely to be injured or killed on the farm than their parents or other farm workers. About 20 children die every year in Australia as a result of farm injuries.**

SafeWork SA reported on the industry's safety record at GPSA's post-harvest meetings.

There were two fatalities during harvest in 2012 and 2013 and from January 2011 to 2015, there were 44 incidents including:

- > 14 incidents involving trucks.
- > 30 incidents at grain receival centres.
- > 4 other incidents involving an auger guard, collapsing bin, mobile field bin and harvester.

> 9 notices issued mostly around auger guarding, grain bin ladders and brakes on tractors.

One of Safework SA's key resources for farmers to be able to make their own workplaces safer is *Seven Steps for Small Business: A guide to meeting your work health and safety responsibilities*.

The resource outlines seven practical steps to assess your farm as a workplace with responsibilities under the Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA) and what farmers can do to make it safer.

**More information:** Download the Seven Steps booklet at [www.grainproducerssa.com.au/pages/news-information/industrial-relationswhs.php](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au/pages/news-information/industrial-relationswhs.php)

## How does your farm compare?

**Regardless of whether your on-farm workers are employed staff or family members, does your farm business consider the following:**

- > Have safe work procedures for you, your family and your staff?
- > Are these followed in day-to-day operations or is responsibility for doing tasks safely left to workers or other family members?
- > Are workplace tools and equipment regularly maintained?
- > Are there plans in place for a workplace emergency, such as a fire or chemical spill?
- > Do you as the manager or farm leader set a good safety standard ... do you lead by example?

## Top transport issues collated

**MORE than 400 issues have been raised in the joint State Government and Primary Producers SA 90-day road transport project.**

In total, 680 responses were received, with 67 percent from primary producers. Issues raised centred on movement of agricultural machinery, particularly relating to width, height, night movements, towing agricultural implements and the overhang of roadside vegetation. Many responses raised 'last-mile' issues and route extension issues.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney said the response from producers was outstanding given harvest was in full swing when the survey was open.

"GPSA is working with PPSA and the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure and Primary Industries and Regions SA, on the next step of this project," he said. "The project steering committee is preparing a final report to prioritise the issues and provide state and local governments with the information they need to take action in addressing them."

## Sponsorship call for women's conference

**GRAIN Producers SA will sponsor two female grain producers to attend the International Rural Women's Conference, to be held later this month in Adelaide.**

The conference – at the Royal Adelaide Showground on March 23 and 24 – offers a local to global perspective on issues confronting women in the world's rural areas as well as building strategies for change in areas including globalisation, trade, sustainable development and food security.

It focuses on four key themes – food security, women influencing agribusiness, technology inspiring innovative change, and health and well-being in rural communities.

The sponsorship includes conference registration (valued at \$445 each), the conference dinner, travel and accommodation. The recipients only need to pay for meals not included at the conference.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney says GPSA wants to further encourage the participation of women in the grains industry and help build their skills and knowledge in agribusiness by

giving them exposure to other leading women in the industry.

He says women are an integral part of the grain industry and play many different roles – from business ownership and management, to hands-on work roles, grain marketing, and financial management.

"Women have always been a great source of innovation within farm businesses on all types of business, farm and financial management issues," he said.

"The sponsorship that GPSA is offering to female grain producers acknowledges that many grain businesses would not be where they are today without their contribution – both on-farm and off-farm."

To enter, applicants must submit an expression of interest up to 250 words outlining why they would like to attend the conference, their experiences as a woman in the grain industry and why they would benefit from attending the conference.

**More information:** Entries close at 5pm on Tuesday, March 10, 2015. Entry forms are available at [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au)