

## GPSA launches petition to grow GM crops



### SIGN THE PETITION

1. Download the petition from the website or call the office to have it posted.
2. Sign it and send it back to GPSA to collate and send to the Minister.
  - a. Free post to: Reply Paid, Grain Producers SA Ltd 83999, Mount Barker SA 5251
  - b. Fax to 1300 734 680
  - c. Scan and email to [info@grainproducerssa.com.au](mailto:info@grainproducerssa.com.au)
  - d. Fill out the form online and return by email

### GRAIN Producers SA is encouraging growers to sign a petition that calls on the State Government to lift the moratorium on growing genetically modified crops in South Australia.

The petition – the first under the new advocacy structure in South Australia – was launched by GPSA at its Grower Day at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days.

GPSA chief executive officer Darren Arney says the petition highlights producers' need for freedom of choice on variety selection.

"The feedback from members to us is that they are becoming increasingly frustrated they do not have the same freedom of choice in their farming systems that their interstate counterparts have," he said.

"GPSA's policy is that growers should have the freedom of choice to grow the cereal, legume and oilseed

varieties that best fit their farming system. This means having access to genetically modified crops.

"With an estimated export value this year of \$2.4 billion, the grains industry is a major contributor to South Australia's economy. However, in recent years, our capacity to increase productivity has slowed. As a result, we need to ensure we have access to all the latest technology to ensure our industry's continued profitability and sustainability."

GPSA will collate the petition – which is a letter addressed to Minister for

Agriculture Leon Bignell asking him to lift the moratorium – and forward it to the State Government.

GPSA believes the benefits to a farming system of using GM crops include:

- > Increased weed control options and reduced reliance on chemicals for weed control.
- > Increased crop rotation options.
- > Increased production per hectare.
- > Increased competitiveness nationally and globally.
- > Increased profitability for individual grain growing enterprises, which contributes to higher employment and jobs growth.



### THE YEAR THAT WAS ...

Catch-up with what Grain Producers SA has been doing on your behalf in 2014-15. A summary brochure of the Annual Report is available online, or download the full Annual Report.

# New draft mining policy open for member comment

**Members of Grain Producers SA can comment on a draft policy that opposes any open cut or invasive mining on or beneath South Australian grain growing land, including exploration.**

The draft policy, written by GPSA's Agricultural Security and Priority (ASAP) Committee, outlines a three-point plan:

> **Food production should be protected.** The draft policy highlights that grain growing is critical for food security here and overseas and that SA grain producers are well placed to meet growing demand for protein-based food from Asian middle classes. It argues that open cut mining detracts

from one of the State Government's priorities – the *Premium Food and Wine from our Clean Environment strategy* – and yet is still promoted as a viable alternative use for agricultural land.

> **Exemptions under the Mining Act should be upheld and no waivers allowed.** The draft policy supports Section 9 of the *Mining Act 1971* which states that land used for cultivation is exempt land. The policy requests Section 9AA, which allows for the waiving of this exemption, be removed.

> **Freehold landowners should have the power of veto over mines going ahead.** The draft policy requests the *Mining Act 1971* be amended so that all freehold landholders have the

right to veto mining on their land if it is exempt land under the Act. This occurs in Western Australia – the state with the largest appetite for mining and export of its resources.

Chief executive officer Darren Arney says GPSA is seeking comment from members on the draft to ensure it reflects the majority view across the state.

## More information:

Producers can offer comments on the draft mining policy to GPSA until October 30. The draft is available under 'news and information' at [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) or by calling the office on **1300 734 884**.

## AGM first for YP Field Days



The GPSA team pictured at YP Field Days included (back) directors Peter Polkinghorne, Garry Hansen, Stephen Ball, Wade Dabinett, David Malpas and Max Wilksch and staff members (front) Tim Burrow, Trudy Huczko, Belinda Ryan and Darren Arney. Absent: Brett Roberts.



Pictured at the GPSA Grower Day at Paskeville are Yorke Peninsula farmers Bill Maloney and John Kennett, GPSA CEO Darren Arney and SA Grain Industry Trust trustee Max Young.

## Grain Producers SA joined with Livestock SA to host a site and meet growers at the Yorke Peninsula Field Days.

Visitors could join as a member, sign the GM petition, enter the draw to win a WeberQ barbecue or complete the Grower Priorities Survey.

GPSA also held its AGM at the field days for the first time and introduced a new event, the Grower Day, to discuss priority policies and issues for action.

The AGM was attended by 70 people including Liberal Senators Sean Edwards and Anne Ruston and State Shadow Agriculture Minister David Ridgway.

Congratulations to Geoff Brigman, Strathalbyn, who won the WeberQ.

## In short...

### Get harvest ready

Grain Producers SA has compiled two summaries for growers to ensure they are complying with reaping and transport regulations this harvest. The summaries outline requirements for moving agricultural machinery and grain carting for 2015-16 harvest. The codes these summaries are based on include:

- > Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.
- > Code of Practice for Oversize or Overmass Agricultural Vehicles.
- > Grain Carriers Code of Practice.

These codes are listed at

[www.grainproducerssa.com.au/pages/links.php](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au/pages/links.php)

### New NRM video

Primary Producers SA and the Northern and Yorke Natural Resource Management Board launched a new video at the YP Field Days promoting the practical ways agriculture and NRM work together. It tells the story of soil conservation and how improved on-farm management has reduced erosion and boosted soil health. Last year, PPSA partnered with the NRM Council and NRM Boards of South Australia, Primary Industries and Regions SA and the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources to produce *Agriculture and NRM: Working Together Action Plan 2014-17*.

## More information:

View the new video at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DsdpmCjCVSo>