

FEBRUARY 2017

## GPSA meets with growers on review of Mining Acts



**About than 200 growers and community members have attended Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA's consultation meetings about the State Government's review of South Australia's Mining Acts.**

Meetings were held at Wudinna, Cummins (pictured), Maitland and Murray Bridge, where producers raised a number of issues with mineral exploration and mining on agricultural land.

The *Mines and Works Inspection Act 1920*, *Mining Act 1971* and the *Opal Mining Act 1995* are currently under view, with plans to introduce a bill to Parliament in mid-2017.

The reviewer – the Department of State Development – has developed three

discussion papers, one in response to each Act. Discussion paper 2 raises most issues relevant to agriculture.

CEO Darren Arney thanked so many growers for taking the time to attend the meetings and have their say on a vital issue for the industry.

“Our recent survey has shown that more than 70% of growers are concerned about the impacts of alternate land uses, such as mining, on the grains industry as a whole,” he said.

“The next step for GPSA is to collate all the feedback and prepare a submission to the review. The GPSA submission will reflect the whole grain industry so individual growers are encouraged to put forward their own submission and outline details specific to their own situations.”

### 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* – this contains many issues relevant to agriculture
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. Submissions close February 24 but growers can request an extension to March 31 by contacting DSD on 8463 3000.

## GPSA welcomes new policy expertise for 2017



Grain Producers SA has appointed a new full-time policy officer Shane Gale (pictured) to work with the organisation's staff, board of directors and South Australian grain growers.

Shane brings recent experience in supply chain, procurement, logistics and transport to GPSA.

His previous roles include consulting to mineral exploration and mining, transport and logistics companies and managing operations.

He worked with former South Australian companies SA Cooperative Bulk Handling, Ausbulk and ABB Grain as transport manager for nearly 10 years before managing national logistics for Cheetham Salt, part of the Ridley Corporation.

In recent years, he has worked with several Australian companies nationally on manufacturing, import/export of finished goods, supply chain, logistics or transportation projects.

“It's great to be coming back to focus solely on the grains industry which is in an exciting period with advances in technology,” Shane said. “My interest is in supply and demand management so I have an affinity with the issues growers are facing in that area, particularly with the high cost of getting grain from farm to port.”

GPSA CEO Darren Arney says with the 2018 State Election fast approaching, Shane's expertise would be invaluable in a number of issues that GPSA is tackling at a state and national level on behalf of growers.

## GTA reviews pool provider standards

### Grain Producers SA is pushing for Grain Trade Australia's mandatory Code of Practice to have more "teeth" when it comes to regulating pool providers.

Grain Trade Australia recently established a sub-committee to review one of the code's key technical documents governing operating standards for pool providers and is seeking industry feedback.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney is a member of the sub-committee, representing Grain Producers Australia in the review.

Part of the review of *Technical Guideline Document No.4 Operating Standards for Pool Providers* (TGD) is to seek feedback on pools in the following areas:

- Enforceability, accountability and transparency.
- Product information descriptions and disclosures.
- Complaints handling processes and procedures and their clarity.
- Hawking and potential for misleading statements.
- Estimated Silo Returns (ESRs).
- Publicly available and accessible historical pool results/data.
- Publicity stated closure dates of pools.
- Segregation of funds.
- Audit of pools
- Whether GTA dispute resolution and arbitration services should be included or not in product terms and conditions.

Generally, the guideline documents are produced for industry and are not specific requirements of GTA's code. However GTA says the TGD is a requirement of the code, and therefore a mandatory requirement for GTA members, which is important given the higher reputational risk to industry and pool operators.

GPSA is lodging a submission on behalf of SA growers on GTA's criteria.

While GPSA had called for pool providers to be required to comply with Australian Financial Services Licencing provisions, managed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, ASIC has since ruled to continue the exemption. In response, GTA convened a sub-committee to undertake the review of its operating standards for pool providers.

"GPSA wants to make sure growers are getting value for money and are not at risk of inappropriate forecasts or marketing strategies that erode their capital position. This means pool providers need to be transparent in their forecasting and operation," Mr Arney said.

**Details:** Any growers wishing to contribute to GPSA's submissions should contact the office, 1300 734 884.

## Work health & safety regional workshops

### Nearly one in five workplace deaths in SA occur on farm.

Workshops focusing on the set-up of local work health and safety (WHS) networks for ongoing community support in the crop and livestock sector will be held in February and March. The free workshops are a partnership project between SafeWork SA and Primary Producers SA commodity groups Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA, funded by SA Health.

They are based on the new manual *Farmers' Guidebook to Work Health and Safety* and offers an opportunity to get practical, sector-specific information and advice on hazard identification, risk assessment, WHS policies, duties and legal obligations, and drafting a standard operating procedure.

TAFE SA has officially recognised the information being presented, and participants will be able to enrol with TAFE SA for free to gain accredited

recognition for a workplace health and safety subject within a nationally accredited qualification from the agriculture, horticulture and conservation and land management training package.

Dates include:

- February 28 - Cummins Bowling Club, 9-11.30am
- February 28 - Minnipa Research Centre, 3-5.30pm
- March 1 - Kimba Football Club, 9-11.30am
- March 2 - Clare Research Centre, 9-11.30am
- March 2 - Maitland's Central Yorke Football Club, 3-5.30pm
- March 22 - Lamerook Football Club, 12.00-2.30pm
- March 23 - Keith NRM Office, 9-11.30am
- March 23 - Struan House via Naracoorte, 3-5.30pm

More locations will be promoted in 2017.

**Details:** Visit [www.grainproducerssa.com.au](http://www.grainproducerssa.com.au) to register

## AGT takeover of InterGrain draws industry scrutiny

### GPSA is currently considering potential issues or benefits from the proposed takeover of InterGrain by Australia's largest wheat breeder Australian Grain Technologies (AGT).

The takeover is being investigated by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission which is seeking to determine whether the merger contravenes the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010*, specifically whether the move would substantially reduce competition in the market.

It recently released a discussion paper seeking feedback in the following areas:

- The impact on end point royalties.
- Whether AGT and InterGrain compete closely, or are likely to do so if the acquisition does not occur.
- Whether any other domestic or overseas breeder/s of winter crop seeds would constrain a combined 'AGT/InterGrain' from increasing end point royalties or reducing research and development.

CEO Darren Arney says GPSA wants to ensure the takeover is in the best interests of growers.

"We are working with other state farming organisations and Grain Producers Australia. There is some concern around the retention of germplasm, the need for cost effective EPRs and ensuring the continued desire to develop high yielding and better quality varieties for growers," he said.

"We want to make sure that, in the transaction, there will be benefits for growers so we are putting in a submission to the ACCC in the consultation process to that effect."

AGT began operating in 2002, focused on breeding wheat for South Australia. Its shares are owned by Grains Research and Development Corporation (39.1%), Limagrain (32.77%), SA Government through PIRSA (14.88%), and the University of Adelaide (13.24%).

InterGrain was formed in 2007 when the Western Australian Government and GRDC privatised the Western Australian based wheat breeding program. In 2009, InterGrain expanded into barley breeding, when the 50-year-old barley breeding program of the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia was transferred to it. The WA Government holds 62% of the issued shares in InterGrain and the GRDC holds the remaining 38%.