

Apply to new \$200m Future Jobs Fund

In the recent State Budget, the South Australian Government announced a new \$200 million Future Jobs Fund.

As part of the Fund, there is \$50 million in grants and \$70 million in low interest loans available to businesses for job creation in five key areas – including tourism, food and wine.

This includes proposals which will create jobs through investment in new or expanded primary production activities, including the grains sector.

LOANS: For expanding an entity's operations with the outcome of creating additional ongoing jobs. Examples include investment in new equipment, construction of infrastructure or facilities, purchase of land, and investments to enable diversification and growth.

GRANTS: Applicants must contribute matching funds of at least the amount of the grant sought.

SUPPORT GRANTS: Grants of up to \$50,000 are available to assist applicants develop a business case in support of applications for grants and/or loans.

The application process is already underway, with the close of applications for Business Case Support Grants on 14 July 2017, with applicants notified on 28 July. Full applications are due on 29 September. (Note: Applicants don't have to apply for a Business Case Support Grant in order to subsequently apply for the full grant or loan.)

There's no time to waste to apply for these funds. Visit the Treasury website <http://bit.ly/2sgwCrm> for more.

Board nominations open

Grain Producers SA chair Wade Dabinett is encouraging South Australian grain producers who want to contribute to their industry's future to nominate for one of three vacant director positions on the GPSA board.

The positions will be up for election at this year's Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the inaugural Growing SA Conference on August 11.

Mr Dabinett thanked retiring board member Brett Roberts for nearly five years of service.

"As a grower, Nuffield scholar and past chair of the former SAFF Grains Council, Brett is a respected and valuable member of the GPSA team, and has contributed significantly to the advancement of agricultural representation in South Australia," he said.

The other two positions becoming vacant are those of Adrian McCabe, who was appointed in September 2016 for a period up to the AGM, and Peter Polkinghorne, whose two-year term will expire at the AGM.

Earlier this year Eyre Peninsula grain grower Dion Woolford was appointed

to the GPSA board as an Independent Director and his term also expires at the AGM. All Directors whose term expires may renominate as a Director.

"The position of board member requires the commitment of attending up to eight meetings annually in Adelaide and regional SA and being available for telephone conferences as needed. There is also the opportunity to represent GPSA nationally on other commodity or issue groups," said Mr Dabinett.

To nominate, a grain producer must be a GPSA member and complete the nomination form, which requires the support of five other GPSA members.

Nominations must be received by GPSA between Friday, July 14, and Friday, July 21. Director nomination forms are available from the GPSA website www.grainproducerssa.com.au or by contacting the office on 1300 734 884.

In the event that there are more nominations than positions available, a ballot will be held. All grain producers in SA are eligible to be members and vote. If you are unsure whether or not you are a member of GPSA, please contact the office as soon as possible.

**GROWING SA
REGISTRATIONS
ARE OPEN!**



www.grainproducerssa.com.au/GrowingSA

Feedback required for Parliamentary Inquiry

Grain producers are being encouraged to provide further feedback to a parliamentary inquiry held by the Economic and Finance Committee, following the publication of an Issues Paper.

As one of South Australia's Parliamentary Standing Committees, the committee began a review in November 2016 into organisational and market structures that prevent primary producers and other people in the food processing industry from receiving a fair deal.

The Committee's Terms of Reference outline that it will "inquire into and report on options for enhancing and supporting Australian primary producers in competitively supplying to retailers, to ensure future local processing and manufacturing in the horticultural, viticultural and agricultural sectors".

Grain Producers SA, through Primary Producers SA, made a submission that suggested grain and viticulture markets could see benefits through the inquiry and increased competitiveness.

Following an initial submission period, in which 13 submissions were made, the Committee has now identified five key issues:

1. The occurrence and effect of unfair contractual dealings to address the inequitable bargaining power that exists between local primary producers and retailers in their respective supply chains.
2. The barriers preventing producers from entering larger supply chains with a specific focus on how producers can better meet the availability, quality and pricing requirements of larger suppliers. This includes the impact and importance of centralised markets in this process.

3. An update in relation to whether the Essential Services Commission of SA has conducted a review of the entire grain supply chain.
4. How producers' production costs could be reduced or passed along the supply chain.
5. A review of the recent changes to the federal codes of conduct to ensure the adequate protection of South Australian producers.

Full details of the key issues is available in Section 4 of the Issues Paper:

<http://bit.ly/2uAvdOZ>

The Committee is now seeking further comments and evidence as part of stage two of the inquiry.

GPSA CEO Darren Arney encouraged all interested parties to take the opportunity to review the Issues Paper and provide their comments, either directly to him on 1300 734 884 or to the Committee.

ElectraNet considers EP power supply options

As Eyre Peninsula grain producers are aware, electricity delivery in the region has been affected by numerous and prolonged power outages.

During June, Grain Producers SA attended public forums presented by ElectraNet which is seeking feedback about electricity supply options for Eyre Peninsula. ElectraNet is the owner/operators of SA's regulated transmission network responsible for making connections and moving high-voltage power over long distances.

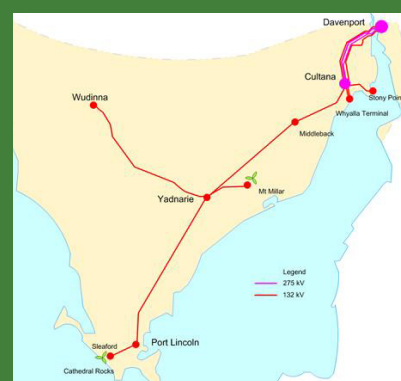
ElectraNet is exploring electricity supply options for meeting reliability standards at Port Lincoln most efficiently in the future. They have identified a need to replace significant transmission line components in the next few years, plus the network support arrangement at Port Lincoln is due to expire at the end of 2018. ElectraNet works within a strict regulatory framework for network investment and needs to establish a strong economic case for significant investment, or receive customer funding.

Simultaneously the Essential Services Commission of SA (ESCOSA) are conducting an inquiry into reliability and quality of electricity supply on the Eyre Peninsula.

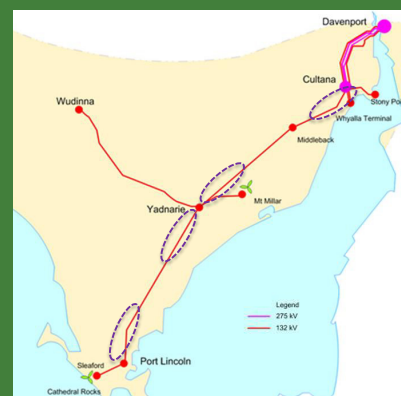
An important consideration for electricity users on Eyre Peninsula is if the network required for the immediate future is the same as the network required in 10 years. Setting a reliability standard that covers immediate needs but not future needs will be insufficient, as is the case now, and may lead to returning power outages. This issue draws attention to the need for higher standards for suppliers to meet than is the current standard.

ESCOSA is considering prudent and efficient options for improving the reliability and quality of electricity supply on the Eyre Peninsula. Grain producers can consult directly with ESCOSA during the public consultation period before it releases its draft report later this month.

More information: ElectraNet consultation <http://bit.ly/2szfdeu>
ESCOSA inquiry: <http://bit.ly/2u1B1E1>



*Eyre Peninsula transmission network.
Source: ElectraNet 30 June 2017*



*About 120 km of line conductor needs to be replaced in next 5-year regulatory period.
Source: ElectraNet 30 June 2017*