

## Small business help available for farmers

**The Office of the Small Business Commissioner can help farmers with alternative dispute resolution, retail and commercial lease information and bond lodgement, advocacy and business information and support.**

OSBC alternative dispute resolution services is for business to business, or business to local or state government disputes and aims to bring both sides together to seek a resolution. Some disputes may require a formal mediation which is low or no cost service. Examples of the disputes we may assist with include unfair market practise, retail and commercial lease disputes, building and construction industry disputes, late payment of invoices by government, and disputes with local or state governments.

The Small Business Commissioner also administers a special industry code covering the farming sector which can include farm finance and debt issues. This code provides the Commissioner with greater powers of inquiry and the ability to bring all parties to the negotiating table.

OSBC supports business growth and education by providing free information sessions on various topics relating to small business such as, safety, industrial relations, dispute resolution, digital services and compliance.

### **More information:**

- Find an OSBC business event at [www.sasbc.sa.gov.au/sasbc-events/osbc-events](http://www.sasbc.sa.gov.au/sasbc-events/osbc-events)
- Contact the office on 1800 072 722
- Email the office at [sasbc@sa.gov.au](mailto:sasbc@sa.gov.au)

## Dion Woolford, Kimba, appointed to GPSA Board



**The Board of Grain Producers SA has appointed Eyre Peninsula grain grower Dion Woolford as an independent director.**

Dion (pictured) farms with his wife Chelsea and his parents near Kimba, cropping 4500 hectares to mostly wheat, barley and vetch for feed and running 5000 sheep under the prefix Karawatha Park.

Dion, 29, says he is excited by the opportunity to work with the GPSA Board and grateful for the wide support he has received in taking on the new role – from the industry to his family. He will stand for election at the next Annual General Meeting.

“The issues that Grain Producers SA deals with through its policy and advocacy role affects me and everyone around me,” he said.

“For example, there’s a huge range of issues such as how supply chain cost affects many farmers on EP and all over the state because having a choice on where to deliver grain is important. Machinery movement is important in terms of what can be moved where and when, plus being able to operate road trains. Also, regulation around access to technology, such as genetically modified crops, will help boost our productivity.

“These issues are what GPSA deals with day in, day out and they affect us all every day. That makes the work that GPSA does really important to all of us, even though you might not think of it every day.

“GPSA is all about working to create a better environment for producers to operate in and it’s pretty exciting to be able to have an opportunity to be part of this work and to be part of finding solutions to these issues.”

# SA Power Networks renews campaign to 'look up and live'

**SA Power Networks is reminding farmers to be vigilant when operating machinery around powerlines, following seven incidents in May in which powerlines were brought down – a number involving farm machinery.**

While fortunately no injuries occurred, SA Power Networks' Paul Roberts says it is essential that farmers ensure anyone working on their property is aware of the location of power lines and carry out a safety check before starting a task.

"Farmers need to be aware of the voltage of the line and the appropriate safe distances for working

near those lines. The higher the voltages, the greater the clearances required to stay safe," he said.

This information is available online in the SA Power Networks Look Up & Live Powerline Safety Fact Sheet. An A5 Safety Card is also available to place in the console of tractors, trucks and farm vehicles while Look Up & Live stickers are available from SA Power Networks by contacting 13 12 61.

Download these resources from the SA Power Networks website – [www.sapowernetworks.com.au](http://www.sapowernetworks.com.au)



## Did you know??

**Permits are required from SA Power Networks for transportation of any vehicle over 4.9 metres high. This is to check the route for any low-hanging powerlines that may get caught during transit. SA Power Networks requires 7-10 days' notice for applications and 21 days' notice if an escort is required.**

**> Apply for a permit on 13 12 61**

## GPSA makes submission to ESCOSA

Submissions to the Essential Services Commission of SA review of bulk grain supply chain costs closed on Friday, 12 May 2017. Its purpose is to determine the "reasonableness of the costs underpinning the South Australian bulk grain supply chain", including the costs over the past 10 years and providing options to address any inefficiencies identified.

GPSA made a submission on behalf of grain producers, highlighting the importance of grain delivery in a timely, convenient, efficient and flexible manner with segregation options. However, it also flagged that since 2011 Select Committee investigation of the grain handling industry, there had been little change to the storage, handling and port loading choices yet increasing supply chain costs lacking transparency and passed back to grain growers.

ESCOSA will work through the six submissions it received before producing its draft report by September.

**All the submissions are available on the ESCOSA website at [www.escosa.sa.gov.au](http://www.escosa.sa.gov.au)**

## NHVR pursues national approach to agricultural vehicle movements

**Did you know the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator is developing a single national notice to cover most agricultural vehicles and combinations movements as part of the National Harmonisation Program?**

The notice will improve regulation consistency across the states and is due to take effect in early 2018. Participating states include the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. At present, the Northern Territory and Western Australia are not participating in the Heavy Vehicle National Law. GPSA has been working with the project team and developed a submission.

The new notice aims to make it easier for industry to move its vehicles in each state and across states. When accessing a public roadway, no farmer should experience any form of reduced access to what they currently have. Vehicles and combinations

which are not covered under the new national notices will still be able to seek access to the road network by way of permits as is already the case currently for the largest vehicles.

A key benefit of the project is that the NHVR has reviewed regulatory inconsistencies relating to mass and dimension limits across participating states and is using its comparative analysis to increase industry's access to the road network.

For SA farmers, the notice will replace the following arrangements:

- Notice of approval and exemption - Oversize or Overmass Agricultural Vehicles Driven on Roads
- Code of practice for oversize or overmass agricultural vehicles

These can be downloaded from the South Australian section on the NHVR website (<http://bit.ly/2rTFalc>).

**More information on the National Harmonisation Program can be found online (<http://bit.ly/2qVJ7J1>)**