



New director for GPSA Board

The Board of Grain Producers SA has appointed experienced lawyer Andrew Goode as an independent director of the organisation.

Mr Goode retired from South Australian legal firm Mellor Olsson at the end of 2015, where he had been a capital partner of the company, and its predecessor, since 1984. He has extensive experience in commercial, property, litigation and succession law, representing a range of businesses from ASX listed public companies to small and medium enterprises.



GPSA Chairman Garry Hansen says Mr Goode's experience was a perfect fit for the organisation and that grain growers would benefit through his extensive corporate and legal knowledge through the Board.

"Andrew has an excellent understanding of regional issues and challenges facing farmers and other rural businesses, particularly in relation to primary production and food manufacturing, as well as conflict of land use issues with competing stakeholders including miners," he said.

"He has worked to advise large family-owned boards and their executive management in relation to commercial and corporate issues as well as expertise in dealing with complex succession disputes between family members of partnerships and companies. He is also a past president of the Law Society of South Australia. We are really looking forward to working with Andrew in future."

Mr Goode said he was looking forward to continuing his involvement in the grain industry and applying the skills he had learned over many years as a practising lawyer and business partner.

Changes to fatigue laws to impact growers carting grain



The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator has removed the fatigue notice that exempted growers from following 'standard hours' within a 100-kilometre radius of their base.

Grain Producers SA will work with Primary Producers SA to request the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator reinstate fatigue exemption laws for growers.

Changes to fatigue laws announced by the regulator late last month will have significant impacts on growers carting their own grain.

The NHVR has removed the fatigue notice that exempted growers from following 'standard hours' within a 100-kilometre radius of their base. The changes take effect on March 14, 2016. This means growers will now need to comply with standard work and rest times under Heavy Vehicle Fatigue Law.

To condense into simple terms, for growers driving truck combinations over 4.5 tonnes:

- Work hours must be recorded, even if your trip is only 20km. Records in a notebook will suffice.

- Growers cannot do more than 12 hours of truck-related work in the 24 hours that follows a sleep break of at least 7 hours.
- Growers can work for a maximum of 5 hours, then have 30 minutes rest.
- If you drive again, you must fit in another 30 minutes rest in the next 5 hours.
- Must have one day off per week.

The laws refer to 'stationary rest time', which is the time a driver spends out of a heavy vehicle or in an approved sleeper berth of a stationary heavy vehicle. Night rest breaks are seven continuous hours of stationary rest time taken between 10pm one day and 8am the next day (using the time zone of the driver's base) or 24 continuous hours stationary rest break. For any growers who have fatigue accreditation, other fatigue management regimes apply.

Details: Check GPSA's website for a summary of the changes and more information.

Ports competition good for growers

From the CEO

With **DARREN ARNEY**



GRAIN Producers SA will hold pre and post-seeding meetings around the state to consult with growers.

One of our first meetings was with the silo committee chairs at Port Lincoln in late February. With a number of proposals on the table that could influence grain freight and logistics, it is critical that growers have input into the discussions.

The prevailing opinion at the meeting was that growers were supportive of rail as a way to efficiently move grain but not supportive of the EP Rail Fund. This is because they believe they are already paying their fair share in freight costs and that paying any extra would be getting double-charged. They remain supportive of GPSA's position, that there should be an independent review into the supply chain network, given the monopoly.

News has emerged this month that Emerald Grain is working with Iron Road to develop new grain distribution and supply chain network at Cape Hardy. GPSA's position is that farmers are seeking competition in this area and if the development will bring lower costs or a more efficient service, we would welcome it.

There's a fair bit of work to be done before we would see a facility which should include an independent review of the grain freight and logistics task on EP. There is a railway line that has a lease with 2.5 years remaining so it must be investigated what impact – if any – this will have on other supply chains.

It's very early days in the project and is contingent on the mine gaining approval. Growers near the proposed mine site and along the transport corridor will want to see benefits for them and their businesses before they support the mine going ahead. GPSA will be looking to have further discussions with Emerald to further explore their plans.

GPSA meetings at Maitland and Balaklava will continue:

- > Maitland – Anna Binna, Ben Wundersitz, March 10, 10-11.30am
- > Balaklava – Brett Robert's property, March 10, 2.30-4pm

> Gladstone – Philip Growden, March 11, 10-11.30am

> Alawoona – Brett Robert's property, March 11, 2.30-4pm

> Karkoo – Karkoo Sports Centre, Steve Glover, March 23, 2.30-4pm

> Maitland – Anna Binna, Ben Wundersitz, March 23, 10-11.30am

> Balaklava – Brett Robert's property, March 23, 2.30-4pm

> Gladstone – Philip Growden, March 24, 10-11.30am

> Alawoona – Brett Robert's property, March 24, 2.30-4pm

> Karkoo – Karkoo Sports Centre, Steve Glover, March 24, 2.30-4pm

> Maitland – Anna Binna, Ben Wundersitz, March 24, 10-11.30am

> Balaklava – Brett Robert's property, March 24, 2.30-4pm

> Gladstone – Philip Growden, March 25, 10-11.30am

> Alawoona – Brett Robert's property, March 25, 2.30-4pm

> Karkoo – Karkoo Sports Centre, Steve Glover, March 25, 2.30-4pm

> Maitland – Anna Binna, Ben Wundersitz, March 25, 10-11.30am

> Balaklava – Brett Robert's property, March 25, 2.30-4pm

New SAGIT trustee

Bordertown grower Edward 'Ted' Langley has been appointed as the newest trustee of the South Australian Grain Industry Trust.

Mr Langley runs his family property at Bordertown with his brother Bill, growing beans, canola and wheat in a zero-till, CTF system, in conjunction with a sheep flock managed to produce mostly prime lamb and wool. He has been a board member and treasurer of the SA No-Till Farmers Association and a member of the Tatiara District Council and involved with the Wolseley Ag Bureau and Mackillop Farm

Management Group. He says he applied to become a trustee to be part of the decision-making process in how growers' levy money is used for South Australian research and development and to ensure they are invested wisely to generate on-farm dollar returns.

"There are some issues that will be a focus of national R&D but other issues are more relevant to SA so it is important that SAGIT continues to pick up on those issues and invest locally to benefit SA growers," he said.



In brief...

Grain Producers Australia director

Congratulations to current GPSA board member Stephen Ball, Riverton, who has been appointed as southern region director for Grain Producers Australia. Stephen replaces Michael Schaefer, who stepped down in 2015. The appointment will be ratified at the GPA AGM in July. GPA chairman Andrew Weidemann said Stephen's experiences a grain grower, educator, company director and leader of an industry organisation would add another dimension to the GPA board and serve the members well.

Have your say on radioactive facility

Landholders can have their say on the proposed National Radioactive Waste Management Facility. The Australian Government received 28 nominations from landholders across Australia including from Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia. Six sites were assessed as suitable for further assessment and public consultation. People with an interest in the nominated land, the communities or the issue itself can provide comment before 4.30pm on March 11.

Details: www.radioactivewaste.gov.au/proposed-sites

Upper SE workshops

The State Government, through PIRSA, is hosting workshops across the Upper South East to provide independent advice on drought management issues and facilitate peer support among farmers. The workshops are

free and open to all farmers, family members and rural service providers. Topics include livestock management in dry times, cropping plans for 2016 and beyond, soil management, farm business planning. Dates and locations include Mundulla on March 7, Wolseley on March 8, Western Flat on March 9, Sherwood on March 10, Willalooka on March 15 and Keith on March 16.

Details: View time and venues at www.pir.sa.gov.au/primary_industry/drought/upper_south_east_drought_assistance_package

Counter-party risk

Growers are reminded to look at their risk management in leasing land. Attractive lentil prices are enticing growers to lease more land to sow more hectares and the demand is creating higher lease prices. GPSA is reminding growers to do their due diligence on grain buyers and pricing before making commitments.

Details: GPSA has a fact sheet on selling and storing grain at www.grainproducerssa.com.au under 'what's new'

Farewell Tim Burrow

Grain Producers SA policy officer Tim Burrow will be moving on, effective March 11. CEO Darren Arney says Tim was the first policy officer employed by GPSA in early 2014. "He has made a valuable contribution to GPSA as we moved from a smaller funding model to become a larger, professional and well-resourced organisation," he said. "His in-depth knowledge of grain markets and commercial agricultural ventures has added value to all that GPSA has achieved and his expertise will be missed."

'Deferred until after seeding. Stay tuned for new dates'