

GROWING SA Conference and AGMs



**Save the date ...
Friday 11 August 2017**

Grain Producers SA and Livestock SA are partnering to host a joint industry conference this year, called GROWING SA.

It will be first event of its kind in which both organisations have joined together and will be held on Friday 11 August 2017 at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf.

The inaugural GROWING SA Conference in 2017 is an opportunity for primary producers to hear the latest in policy developments, farm business advice and commodity research while networking with each other and industry service providers and policy decision-makers.

Through a mix of split sessions and social functions, the conference will:

- Provide the latest policy and farm business information to help producers boost productivity and profitability.
- Highlight the state's broadacre industries as a shining light for innovation, industry growth, and business sustainability.
- Enable producers, industry service providers, stakeholders, politicians and policy-makers from across SA

to engage in a two-way dialogue regarding policy issues, plus network, at a once-a-year event.

GPSA and Livestock SA will host their annual general meetings as part of the day.

Livestock SA CEO Andrew Curtis says the theme GROWING SA reflects the industry's leading role in cementing South Australia's reputation as a premium food and wine exporter.

"Primary production is an engine room for the state's economy. It is a shining light when other industries face challenges to growth," he said.

"It is a multi-billion industry with exciting investment opportunities. The livestock and grain industries produce, and value add, a diverse range of food products and are recognised globally as produced in a clean and green environment.

"In the lead-up to the State Election, we want to ensure that our industry is placed front and centre in policy debates so we can ensure primary production policies of all parties contesting the election enable our members to remain profitable."

Grain Producers SA CEO Darren Arney says primary production is growing its share of the job market, its customer and export base and its economic contribution to the state.

"Day in, day out, food producers are contributing to SA's growth and that needs to be recognised and celebrated," he said.

"The SA grains industry is coming off the back of a record harvest. Overall, one in five working South Australians is employed in the food industry and agriculture, food and wine is worth \$18.6 billion to the state.

"These are outstanding figures and, through broader traditional and digital media reach, it is intended metropolitan communities will hear more of the industry's leading position.

"We are encouraging all producers to come along for the day and support the organisations that advocate for them to industry stakeholders and service providers and policy makers on a daily basis. There are a range of accommodation options available for those who are interested."

Find out more at
www.grainproducerssa.com.au

ESCOSA reviews bulk grain supply chain costs

Grain Producers SA has welcomed the State Government's decision to instruct the Essential Services Commission of SA to review South Australian bulk grain supply chain costs on behalf of grain producers.

The purpose of the inquiry – initiated in March – 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 CEO Darren Arney says the *Inquiry into the South Australian bulk grain supply chain costs* is great news for growers and a key element of GPSA's policy on storage and handling competition.

He says the inquiry's terms of reference will ensure it is a detailed and thorough review, covering components of supply chain costs, their efficiency and cost recovery, harvest trends over the past decade, and working collaboratively across a number of government departments.

“The inquiry has been commissioned by Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis, with support of Transport Minister Stephen Mullighan, and we acknowledge their foresight in acting to investigate what is one of the largest, if not the largest, costs in grain production in this state,” Mr Arney said.

“For the 2016-17 harvest, Free on Board (FOB) costs are estimated to be about \$50 per tonne. FOB costs include a number of charges, such as receival fees, monthly carry charges and vessel loading fees. Freight from upcountry delivery points are in addition to the FOB costs and are also a significant deduction to the farm-gate prices that grain growers receive.

“These are a cost which are mostly outside of growers' control. Good grain production managers can make smart decisions about how to become more profitable by controlling on-farm costs, such as machinery upgrades or the cost of sowing a crop. But receival, storage and handling and port terminal costs cannot be sent back any further – growers are paying the full cost.

“ESCOSA reviewing supply chain costs was also raised as a recommendation of the multi-partisan *Select Committee of the Grain Handling Industry*, which delivered its report in 2012.”

The key objectives of the inquiry are to:

- Provide transparency in regards to bulk grain export supply chain costs in SA.
- Determine areas where future efficiencies may be achieved, and
- Review the appropriateness of mechanisms used for funding road and rail components of the bulk grain export supply chain costs.

Details: www.escosa.sa.gov.au/

In brief

GRDC open meetings

The Grains Research and Development Corporation is hosting a series of open meetings in regional South Australia in June and July.

The purpose of the open meetings is to ensure all grain growers and grains industry stakeholders have the opportunity to engage directly with GRDC staff, panel and Regional Cropping Solutions Network members and to have their say regarding the most important constraints and opportunities to the profitability of growers in the region.

The meetings will be held at:

- Maitland Football Club, June 20, 9am to 12.30pm
- Cleve Golf Club, June 22, 9am to 12.30pm
- Ouyen Football and Netball Club, June 29, 9am to 12.30pm
- Lucindale Memorial Hall, July 6, 9am to 12.30pm

Details: www.grdc.com.au

Fuel voucher winner

A special thank you to all growers who completed the GPSA Post Harvest Review Survey. Feedback gathered helps to inform GPSA's policy positions on storage and handling.

The winner of the \$500 fuel voucher was the **Millard family from Mount Hope** on Eyre Peninsula. They will put the voucher to good use in their 2000 hectare cropping program of wheat, barley, canola, lupins, beans and lentils.

Congratulations!!



Stakeholder update online

Grain Producers SA has recently released its biannual stakeholder update *Grain Producer*.

The aim of this initiative is to communicate the professional, innovative and tech-savvy nature of grain production in South Australia and its significant contribution to the SA economy as well as highlighting issues that are impacting the profitability of members.

The Autumn 2017 edition celebrates the record-breaking 2016-17 harvest of 11.1 million tonnes and emphasises the significant economic flow-on effects. It also profiles two key issues for grain producers in the next six months and in the lead-up to the State Election – the review of SA's mining laws and the inquiry into South Australia's bulk grain supply chain costs.

Details: <http://bit.ly/2pmxAFX>