

## Independence key to fair mining review

By **DARREN ARNEY**  
CEO, Grain Producers SA



**While growers are gearing up to harvest one of the largest crops in our history, Grain Producers SA has been advocating for a fair approach to the government review of South Australia's mining acts.**

The review was announced in October with limited detail as to the timing of consultation and who would be conducting it. While we initially cautiously welcomed the review, we have since learnt that the review consultation period may run only

during November and December – our busiest time of year. It will be conducted by the State Government department responsible for promoting and approving mines, the Department of State Development.

We have written to Premier Jay Weatherill on behalf of growers calling for either an independent panel or an independent arbiter to conduct the review – which was the approach recently taken by the New South Wales and Queensland governments when they reviewed their acts.

We have asked for an extension to the consultation period to March 2017, to allow growers to have their say without being flat out with harvest. We also reiterated the importance of the grains

industry to the SA economy – an export value of \$2.2 billion last year and on track this year to eclipse that figure.

GPSA believes that, along with the independent review of the Mining Act, a review of the dual role of the Department of State Development should also be undertaken.

Given 41.5% of SA's land area – including 95% of Yorke Peninsula and 90% of Eyre Peninsula – is subject to mining exploration leases, we know this is an important issue for growers. We hope that our concerns will be heeded so the process is fair for all.

**Details:** Read GPSA's Mining Policy at [grainproducerssa.com.au](http://grainproducerssa.com.au)

## 'Our clean grain' campaign targets harvest deliveries

**Growers are urged to continue their vigilance to 'keep our crop clean' this harvest to ensure grain meets requirements for international and domestic markets and is within physical, chemical and biological tolerance limits.**

Grain Producers SA is part of a new working group, the SA Grain Market Access Group, headed by the Grain Industry Association of South Australia. It's the first time all participants in the grain industry have embarked on such a campaign to highlight the importance of grain hygiene.

Other partners include Primary Industries and Regions SA, Viterro, Grain Growers Ltd, South Australian Grain Industry Trust, Grains Research and Development Corporation, and

fodder industry and independent agronomy consultants.

There are three key areas for growers to remember this harvest:

- All domestic and export markets for Australian grain have a low to nil tolerance level for chemical residues and contaminants. There is a zero tolerance for fertiliser, pickled/treated grain/artificial colouring, live stored grain insects, any unapproved chemical, rodent/snail bait, glass and brittle plastic, live or dead rodents, and toxic and corrosive materials.
- When spraying crops, growers must adhere to withholding periods, label instructions, application rates and safe operating procedures of the chemical being used. It is critical to only use registered/permitted chemicals on crops and any chemicals applied must



be appropriately declared when delivering grain.

- Before harvest, growers must clean all equipment and ensure it is ready for use, including headers, augers, chaser bins, on-farm storage, field bins, trailers, delivery trucks and grain handling equipment.

**Details:** [www.pir.sa.gov.au/cleangrain](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/cleangrain)

# New feed barley permit for glyphosate timely

**Grain Producers SA has welcomed the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority's decision to issue a permit for use of glyphosate on feed barley.**

GPSA CEO Darren Arney says the decision gives growers another tool for use in weed control in feed barley and is desperately needed given weed growth in recent wet spring conditions.

"Growers may have had trouble controlling pre-harvest weeds in barley and this permit will enable them to do so quickly and efficiently before harvest starts if they need to," Mr Arney said.

"This decision evens the score for barley in South Australia, given glyphosate is registered for use in other crops pre-harvest.

"In recent years, the area sown to barley in SA has declined and this decision, which enables growers to better control weeds in barley, will be one way of ensuring we have a viable barley market in future."

Mr Arney said the lead on the application was taken by Grain Producers Australia and was supported by industry.

"The entire industry was consulted on this issue which is why it's such a good outcome. The use of glyphosate on feed barley only means we will be able to maintain our premium malt barley markets while giving growers the flexibility to manage agronomic issues on-farm," he said.

"It's been a long process with a lot of industry consultation and importantly, the science is in place to support the decision which gives our markets

confidence they will continue to receive the good quality grain that SA is renowned for.

"We encourage growers to follow the permit conditions of use and to understand that some grain buyers will require vendor declarations on chemical use this harvest."

The APVMA permit for *pre-harvest desiccation and spray topping of weeds in specified barley (except malting barley)* lasts until July 31, 2019. It enables late season use of glyphosate on feed barley, not malting barley crops, and builds on a recently expired permit. The new permit is available online at <http://permits.apvma.gov.au/PER82594.PDF>

## Work diary reminder

**All drivers are required to ensure their work and rest hours are compliant with the Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).**

Drivers are not allowed to drive or work more than the maximum work hours or rest less than the minimum rest hours in a certain period set out by law.

A National Driver Work Diary provides evidence that a driver's hours are compliant with the legislation.

Most drivers of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle are required by law to create a record of time spent working, driving and resting on a daily basis in a national driver work diary. However, under certain circumstances, primary producers are exempt from purchasing and maintaining the official National Driver Work Diary.

All drivers must adhere to standard hours and keep a detailed written record of work and rest times in either their own 'local area driving record' or the official work diary.

**Details:** See Work Diary Requirements Fact Sheet under **what's new** at GPSA's website.

## Carefully consider pool strategy before harvest hits top gear

**With below average grain prices forecast, many growers may be looking to put more grain into pools than they would normally.**

GPSA is encouraging all growers to do their due diligence on the pool they may be considering. This means being objective and asking the 'tough questions' to assess whether their strategy is sound.

Growers should review past history of the pool provider and consider the track record of the company that is operating their products. Compare past performance against pool estimates and find out what their strategy is if their forecast is over current market price.

While it will be tempting in a low grain price environment to give grain to a provider with higher returns, growers need to ask how that return is going to be achieved.

Growers need to consider the management costs. Sometimes these costs can be over \$7/t so how does the company justify that cost in a managed pool environment? What risk are they taking for that \$7/t of your money?

It's very easy to over promise on these products and sometimes those promises haven't been delivered against. For \$7/t on 1000t of grain, that is probably more than some growers are paying their agronomist so consider what specialist skills does the pool provider you are considering have that warrants that trust and investment.

Growers should also consider the promise of returns versus the time of delivery. While higher prices may be achieved with deferred delivery, don't forget about the carrying costs and finance charges. Another \$10/t might be good but if that isn't coming for another five months, then that will be eaten up with those costs.

Finally, while prices have declined, fewer growers have forward sold grain. This means more growers are more exposed to price so independent advice on a strategy moving forward will be vital for many, particularly those areas which have recently experienced poor seasons and need to manage and maximise cashflow.