

No price premiums for GM-free despite economic boost claims from government

From the CEO

With **DARREN ARNEY**



South Australian growers remain limited in increasing productivity in their farming systems by being unable to grow GM food crops.

A recent report released by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Leon Bignell claims that increased demand for non-GM foods will provide a 'huge economic boost' for South Australia but we are yet to see any kind of premium in prices for grain anywhere in SA.

The report, *Identification and Assessment of Added-Value Export Market Opportunities for Non-GM Labelled Food Products from South Australia*, was produced by the University of Adelaide for the State Government.

GPSA is calling on the government to release the data that identifies premiums for SA grain being GM-free.

For us in the grain industry, there are three key issues with the report:

- It does not identify any price premiums currently being achieved for SA grain producers to demonstrate the benefit of SA being GM-free to them – particularly when there is a number of agronomic benefits of growing GMs that they are missing out on.
- It neglects the fact that the SA industry already segregates grain into different categories, such as by grade, variety and end use (such as malt barley). This segregation is already occurring interstate for



organic, GM and non-GM grain and can happen here in SA.

- "Naturally healthy products" could also mean organic, biodynamic, free-range or paleo but regardless, all of these food production systems operate interstate where GMs are grown. Producers and manufacturers in those states operate in export markets.

The industry's ability to differentiate between organic, GM and non-GM means the GM moratorium in SA is redundant because of our very stringent food supply systems. Our continuing message is that producers need freedom of choice to grow the cereal, legume and oilseed varieties that best fit their farming system. This means both GM and non-GM varieties.

Country cabinet and night movement of machinery

Earlier in September, we caught up with Minister for Transport Stephen Mullighan (pictured above with GPSA Chairman Wade Dabinett) and Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell at Country

Cabinet. This was held in the Upper South East and Mallee region and was a great opportunity to showcase some of the issues important to us.

One of the key areas of focus for GPSA recently has been the ability to move machinery at night. We were able to show the Ministers some of the machinery and explain how important that is for the productivity of our businesses.

Just last week, it was announced that rubber tracked tractors with a GVM up to 24 tonnes will be included in the permit system, which is a great outcome.

We've had lots of feedback that the permits should be allowed for machinery wider than 4m and now with Primary Producers SA, we've got PIRSA and DPI to agree to finding out more. There is a survey currently available on Rural Connect that producers can complete to provide some data around how they would like to move machinery at night. Visit www.ruralconnect.com.au to participate. Full details of the night movement of machinery is available on the PPSA fact sheet at <http://bit.ly/2dSHudk>.

GPSA launches new magazine to promote grain growing sector

Grain Producers SA has launched a new initiative to keep industry stakeholders up-to-date on news and information in the South Australian grain growing sector, a magazine titled **Grain Producer**.

The aim of the publication is to communicate the professional, innovative and tech-savvy nature of grain production in SA and its significant contribution to the SA economy.

SA grain producers are global leaders in the production of quality cereals, legumes and oilseeds. We feel we need to better communicate that grain producers have invested large amounts of capital in their operations and are multi-skilled in a range of areas, such as agronomy, machinery operation, work health and safety, grain marketing and business and financial management.



The hard copy publication, which has been posted out to key industry stakeholders this month, will be accompanied by extra content on social media and YouTube. *Grain Producer* is available online at <http://bit.ly/2d2zB1O>.

In brief

Manage fire risk this harvest

With a bumper harvest forecast for 2016, Grain Producers SA is encouraging growers to prepare their properties, be aware of fire risks and follow the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.

Key points outlined in the code for growers include:

- Stop harvest when the local actual (not forecast) Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI) exceeds 35.
- Before harvest, establish a minimum 4-metre fire break around the boundary of crops or paddocks to be reaped.
- Keep crop residues on machines to a minimum, particularly engines, exhausts and brakes.
- Regularly maintain machinery before and during harvest, particularly wearing parts and bearings.
- Reduce potential build-up of static electricity while reaping.
- Carry the prescribed equipment - such as water, extinguisher and a shovel - and have immediate access to a UHF CB radio or mobile phone.
- Keep a farm firefighting unit in the paddock being harvested.

National Wind Farm Commissioner

GPSA's CEO Darren Arney met with Andrew Dyer, the National Wind Farm Commissioner when he was in Adelaide recently.

Mr Arney presented to the Senate Select Committee on Wind Turbines as part of its 2015 consultation process. The Committee identified many issues of concern relating to the standards, monitoring and operation of wind farms.

The Federal Government responded to the recommendations of the Committee's Interim Report, including creation of the role of a National Wind Farm Commissioner. The Commissioner is an independent role appointed by the

Australian Government, reporting to the Minister for the Environment. The Commissioner's role is to receive and refer complaints from concerned community residents about wind farms, and promote best practices for industry and government to adopt for the planning and operation of wind farms.

If you have a concern regarding an existing or proposed wind farm, please contact the Office of the National Wind Farm Commissioner:

nwfc@environment.gov.au
1800 656 395
National Wind Farm Commissioner
PO Box 24434, Melbourne VIC 3001

Record-keeping at harvest

To manage fatigue, 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.

While most drivers of a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle are required by law to create a record of time spent working (including driving time) and resting on a daily basis in a work diary, primary producers are exempt in certain circumstances.

If you are driving a fatigue-regulated heavy vehicle, transporting primary produce between a primary production facility and a point of sale, processing or distribution and are working within a 160km radius of your base, you are NOT required to keep and record information in a National Driver Work Diary under the National Primary Production Work Diary Exemption (Notice) 2015 (No.2).

Grain Producers SA has worked with PIRSA and the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to develop a fact sheet which spells out the times when you will need to use a Work Diary and when you are exempt. To download the fact sheet, visit <http://bit.ly/2dmqduM>.

Connecting with growers

GPSA always wants to hear from growers and we have two avenues currently where growers can do this. We have our 2016 Priority Issues Survey open. This survey is really important in directing where GPSA prioritises its time and effort in advocating on your behalf and helps to influence our industry stakeholders.

Secondly, we have a series of growers meetings coming up on Yorke Peninsula and in the Mid North. These are:

- Balaklava, Tuesday 18 October from 9.30am to 11.30am.
- Maitland, Tuesday 18 October from 4.30pm to 6.30pm.
- Crystal Brook, Wednesday 19 October, GRDC Harvester Fires Workshop, 7.30am to 12 noon.
- Following this workshop, GPSA will host a grower meeting from 1pm to 3pm.

Register your attendance on the [GPSA website](http://www.gpsa.com.au). We encourage growers to come along before harvest and have their say.