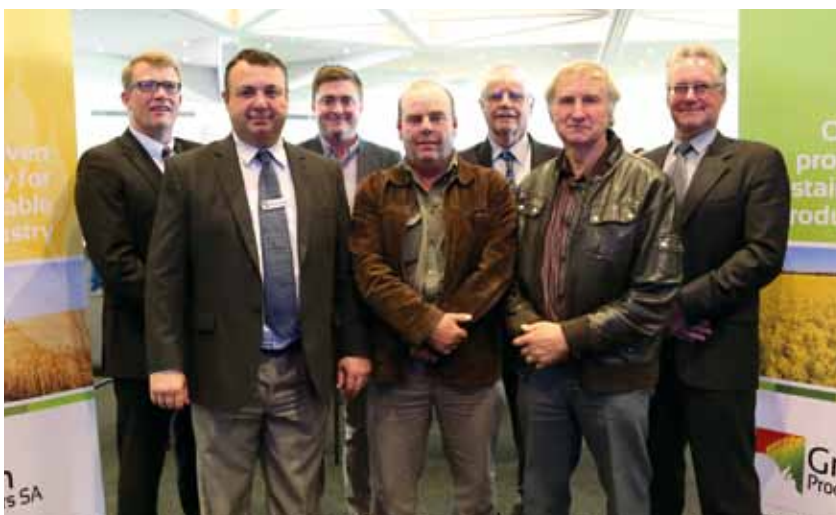


New board directors elected at GPSA AGM



Directors of Grain Producers SA at the 2014 AGM include Stephen Ball, Riverton, chief executive officer Darren Arney, Wade Dabinett, Parilla, Brett Roberts, Balaklava, Peter Polkinghorne, Ceduna, Max Wilksch, Yeelanna, and chairman Garry Hansen, Coomandook. Absent: David Malpas, Lucindale.

MEMBERS of Grain Producers SA elected two new directors and returned two renominating directors to the organisation's board, announced at the Annual General Meeting in Adelaide last month.

New board directors include David Malpas, Lucindale, and Stephen Ball, Riverton. Returned directors include Max Wilksch, Yeelanna, and Wade Dabinett, Parilla, who was previously a board-appointed director. Directors continuing for a further year include Brett Roberts and Peter Polkinghorne.

Chairman Garry Hansen thanked members who voted in the election

and all the candidates for seeking to be involved in the organisation on behalf of growers.

"GPSA received five nominations for four board director positions which reflects a solid interest from producers in the organisation and its advocacy work on their behalf," he said.

"Members had a difficult decision to make because all candidates are incredibly experienced and we extend a special thank you to David Brown, Naracoorte, for his nomination. GPSA also acknowledges the contributions of retiring directors Mark Schilling and Malcolm Sargent who have both been integral to the organisation since it started."

Pools under scrutiny in harvest 2014-15

GRAIN Producers SA will be monitoring performance of pools this harvest, comparing the final price with the original estimated pool return (EPR).

GPSA policy officer Tim Burrow says there is now a voluntary code of conduct for pools and if there is a 'material adverse change' – defined as more than 5 percent – the pool provider must update it immediately for growers. They must be able to justify their EPR at all times and update it at least monthly.

"We want to make sure pool estimates that are advertised are reflective of what you're going to get at the end. We'll be holding those pool operators to account through the code," Mr Burrow said. "We advise farmers to carry out their due diligence on pool operators. Growers have to ask the question as to how the pool operator has come up with the estimate."

Mr Burrow says GPSA is concerned about the large gap between the Chicago Board of Trade prices and Australian pool prices.

"If prices are low at harvest, it will be tempting to go for a headline pool price that will be well and truly away from where the market is at that point in time.

"We are watching traders on growers' behalf and if growers have any queries, please get in touch with GPSA."

More information...

Tim Burrow, 0417 868 036,
tim@grainproducerssa.com.au
View the code at <http://bit.ly/1uXFGNb>

Storage and handling competition key issue for producers

By **GARRY HANSEN**
GPSA Chairman



IT HAS been a very mixed bag of a season so far for South Australian grain producers, with early frosts damaging crops throughout the state and a dry spell and hot winds in August and September stressing crops. Let's hope we have a kinder finish to spring as we roll into harvest.

The highlight of the past month has been GPSA's Annual General Meeting in September. About 50 people gathered in Adelaide to discuss

the organisation's advocacy efforts and issues affecting them and their businesses. A copy of GPSA's Annual Report is available on the website.

Minister for Agriculture Leon Bignell addressed the meeting and took questions from the floor, as did Liberal Shadow Minister David Ridgway. The attendance of both Mr Bignell and Mr Ridgway reflects how GPSA is fostering a working relationship with both sides of politics to put the case for grain producing in SA and the issues we as producers face.

GPSA released the results of its recent *2014 Grower Priorities Survey* at the AGM, which found producers' number one issue was the need for more competition in grain storage and handling. The survey had 222 responses to September 9 and the issues were ranked in order of priority for GPSA's attention.

Post-farmgate costs remain farmers' major concern and continue to increase at a greater rate than inflation. We regularly seek input from growers on where we should be directing our efforts through a range of means, such as surveys, forums and direct liaison with growers.

In a similar survey in 2012, growers rated these issues however in the 2014 survey, there has been greater focus on the need for tighter contracts with grain buyers and access to the latest technology, such as genetically-modified crops. New to the list are competing land use issues and farmer

stewardship, but these were lower down the list.

These issues will form the focus of GPSA in the coming year through our annual operating plan and we will continue to seek the input of growers as we advocate to the industry and government on their behalf."

Producers' top issues in 2014

1. Competition in storage and handling
2. Research, development and extension
3. Competition from grain buyers
4. Truck registration fees
5. Access to GM technology
6. Grain transport and logistics
7. Market development and monitoring
8. Grain contract terms and conditions
9. Access to weighbridges
10. Land use, such as gas/mining versus grain
11. Access to farm inputs
12. Growers consultation
13. On-farm occupational health, safety and welfare
14. Biofuel
15. Grain pool performance and transparency
16. Grain stewardship program
17. Farmer stewardship program



Competition in storage and handling has emerged as producers' number one issue in a recent GPSA member survey.

On our radar

- > **Grain Producers SA has received plenty of feedback from producers on the State Government's recently announced increases to the Emergency Services Levy. GPSA is working behind the scenes with Primary Producers SA which has held meetings with Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis and Minister for Emergency Services Tony Piccolo.**



Time to update log books

DRIVERS of heavy vehicles who have been using log books must have updated to the new National Driver Work Diaries.

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) had a six-month grace period to move to the new diary system but this has now expired.

NHVR is the independent regulator for heavy vehicles over 4.5 tonnes

gross vehicle mass. Its new diaries explain national fatigue laws, includes examples outlining how to account for driving time, and requires less information to complete.

Work diaries cost \$20 and are available from all service centres selling the current diary.

More information ...
www.nhvr.gov.au/workdiary

New mandatory port code to benefit growers

THE Federal Government's move to a mandatory code for port access is good news for growers, according to Grain Producers SA.

The code was announced by Federal Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce last month and started on September 30. As part of the change, the existing Wheat Export Marketing Act 2008 will be repealed.

The mandatory code means that the 20 companies which export grain from South Australia will now have a more level playing field when it comes to accessing ports owned by Viterra.

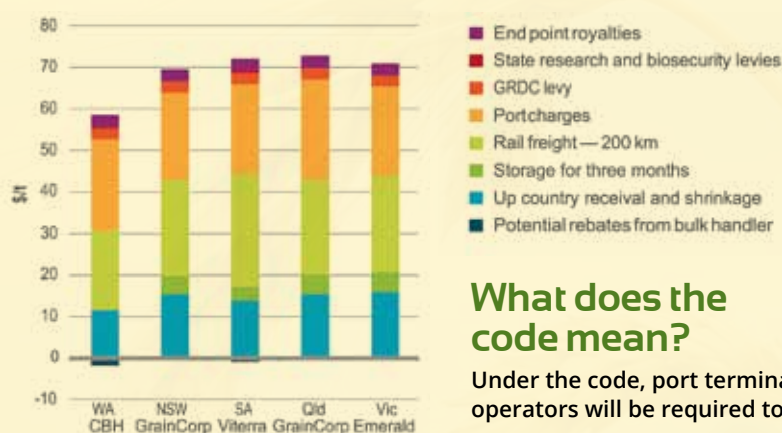
Chief executive officer Darren Arney says under the code, the terms and conditions placed on bulk wheat exporters by the owner of the port must be transparent.

"The port access code was voluntary but the Federal Government has now put the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission between the wheat exporter and the port terminal operator," Mr Arney said.

"This means the conditions for the exporter to use the port terminal have to be approved by the ACCC and if there is an issue, any third party can take their point of view to the ACCC.

"This is good for grain producers because it reduces the potential for anti-competitive behaviour around

Figure 1: Composition of post-farm-gate wheat supply chain costs by State 2013-14



According to the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre, export supply chain charges comprise 30 percent of grain producer's costs. Source: AEGIC 2013

grain exports and we get a seat around the table when port fees are being discussed."

Mr Arney says it is the result of three years of work at a state and national level by both GPSA and Grain Producers Australia and shows progress is being made on increasing competition in ports access.

More information...

www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-food/crops/wheat/port-access

What does the code mean?

Under the code, port terminal operators will be required to:

- > Allocate available port terminal capacity through a mechanism which applies equally to all exporters. Viterra is currently considering moving from an auction system for shipping slots to long-term agreements with exporters.
- > Publish certain information on its website, such as the amount of capacity available on a weekly and annual basis, and key performance indicators.
- > Undertake a process for amendments to port loading protocols, including the requirement to consult.
- > Comply with dispute resolution processes.

Did you know?

- > Storage and handling fees, port loading fees and other bulk handling costs have increased from \$23.77 a tonne to \$42.88/t from 2006-07 to 2014-15 – an 80 percent increase.

Qualification reminder for Group I use

PRODUCERS wanting to use Group I herbicides on their farm must have minimum qualifications as a 'prescribed chemical user'. This means training in ChemCert or equivalent as a minimum. A full list of training providers in South Australia is available on GPSA's website.

The changes to Group I regulations were introduced by Biosecurity SA in 2013 and requires growers to have the formal qualification of 'prepare and apply chemicals' – acknowledging their skills in safe and correct Group I chemical use.

GPSA encourages the small number of grain growers who do not have the necessary qualification to undertake the training as soon as possible if

they wish to use Group I herbicides. To continue to have access to these chemical groups for maximum weed management options, then responsible and safe chemical use is paramount.

More information...

Rural Chemicals Operations group, 1300 799 684, or PIRSA, www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa/ruralchem/using_chemicals_safely

Future of EP, Mallee rail line raised at government forum

Grain Producers SA represented growers at a transport forum last month with the government, opposition, and other industry stakeholders.

One of the issues at the top of the list was the future of rail lines through the Eyre Peninsula and Mallee owned by Genesee Wyoming.

GPSA chief executive officer Darren Arney says there are temperature, speed and capacity restrictions on the line which is reducing its use for grain transport.

"GPSA raised producers' perspective in terms of what it will mean if those lines close, what the ramifications might be in shifting that rail transport task to roads and the potential for a cost shift burden to growers," he said.

"We want to make sure farmers aren't disadvantaged by changes to the transport task, particularly in harvest efficiencies and supply chain costs."

The forum will reconvene early in 2015.



Grain Producers SA has represented growers' views in discussions on the future of the Mallee rail line this month.

Keep harvest 2014-15 contaminant and residue free

GRAIN producers are reminded to keep harvest clean this year by ensuring grain delivered to receival centres is contaminant-free and does not exceed maximum residue limits for late season chemical application.

All domestic and export markets for South Australian grain have a low or nil tolerance level for chemical residues and contaminants. Pickled grain, artificial colouring, fertiliser, bait, rodents and old grain must not be present in newly harvested grain to avoid potential supply chain contamination.

Growers must clean all harvest and grain storage equipment thoroughly including:

- > **Pressure-wash field bins** to remove any residual fertiliser, pickled grain and dye from the cone, walls and roof.
- > **Clean-out headers with compressed air** to remove any contaminants and when unloading, let the first bit of grain run out on to the ground (including contents of the bubble auger).
- > **Dry-run augers and use a soft mallet on the length of the barrel** to dislodge any fertiliser build-up, even those cleaned after seeding/spreading urea. Grain to be retained on-farm should be the first run up the auger. Growers may be surprised at how much urea can become lodged in augers.
- > **Trucks must be pressure-washed** to remove any traces of fertiliser or pickle, including tarp rails and the underside of tarps.
- > **Producers must only use registered chemicals** and adhere to withholding periods, label instructions, application rates and safe operating procedures at all times.

The grain industry and Federal Government have a pesticide residue monitoring program, the National Residue Survey, which tests chemical residues in grain every harvest and provides evidence of grain growers' 'good agricultural practice' to support ongoing market access.

If the National Residue Survey detects a MRL breach, growers may be faced with increased sampling, testing and/or administration which could delay harvest deliveries or worse, result in losing market access.

Did you know?

Grain producers should stop harvesting when the local actual Grassland Fire Danger Index exceeds 35.

These and other tips to reduce crop fire risk are outlined in the South Australian Grain Harvesting Code of Practice. The code has helped to reduce the number of harvest fires since it was introduced.

Make sure you re-read the code before the headers hit full speed this year!

- > Read the code on the 'links' tab at www.grainproducerssa.com.au

