



**GRAIN  
PRODUCERS SA**  
The voice of South Australian growers

# News

NOVEMBER 2018

## Parliament adjourns debate on Mining Bill until February 2019

**GPSA has welcomed Parliament's decision to adjourn further debate on controversial changes to the Mining Bill.**

This decision allows more time to properly consider further amendments to the bill, including those that the Government itself has flagged. The Bill's adjournment is a welcome development for growers as harvest continues or nears completion across many areas of the state.

GPSA, along with many growers, attended Parliament to listen first-hand to the debate on Tuesday. Liberal MPs Fraser Ellis, Steve Murray, Dan Cregan, and Nick

McBride joined with Labor and Mount Gambier MP Troy Bell in adjourning debate. In doing so, the MPs noted that the proposed Bill does not strike a fair balance between farmers and miners.

GPSA continues to seek amendments to address the imbalance for individual farmers dealing with exploration and mining companies wanting access to agricultural land. GPSA wants greater certainty for primary producers, through improved land access arrangements backed by regulation and does not support the Bill in its current form.

As many growers will be aware, the Bill leaves substantial detail to the regula-

tions. GPSA's Mining Taskforce recently met with the Department of Energy and Mining to raise our concerns with the draft land access regulations. GPSA has provided a formal submission to the Department that raises these concerns in detail. The full submission can be found here: [www.tinyurl.com/GPSARegSubmission](http://www.tinyurl.com/GPSARegSubmission)

GPSA will continue to engage constructively with all sides of politics to secure the best possible outcome for growers. We will draft potential amendments to the Bill over the summer break, aiming to build consensus for our policy positions before Parliament resumes in 2019.

GPSA has repeated our call for a review independent of the Department into the land access provisions of this Bill. This was a key policy featured in our election strategy and our position has not changed.

**More information on the Mining Act Review is available on GPSA's website: [www.tinyurl.com/MiningActReview](http://www.tinyurl.com/MiningActReview)**



## China launches Australian barley dumping investigation

**China's Ministry of Commerce has announced a one-year anti-dumping investigation into imports of Australian barley, after initiating a similar investigation into American sorghum earlier in the year.**

The Ministry alleges that Australian barley is sold at "lower than normal" prices which has impacted on Chinese domestic production. 'Dumping' generally refers to exporting a large quantity of a good to a country below the market price with the intent of injuring the domestic industry and increasing market share.

The claims of dumping have been strongly rejected by Australian exporters given the commercial imperative which Australian producers face. In 2017, two thirds of Australian barley, or 6.48 million tonnes with a value of US\$ 1.5 billion, was exported to China. In total, 20% of Australia's agricultural production is exported to China, with wool and wine being particularly dependent on exports there.

The Grains Industry Market Access Forum is leading the industry's national response and is preparing to work cooperatively with the investigation to ensure a positive outcome for Australian barley growers. Grain Producers Australia

Chairman Andrew Weidemann has rubbished claims of dumping, telling the Australian Financial Review "Frankly, Australia wouldn't be dumping barley in China because it's being sold at the world market price."

The Lowy Institute, a nonpartisan international policy think tank, has warned that agricultural exporters should be prepared for the possibility that China will employ further non-tariff measures against Australian agricultural commodities. According to the Lowy Institute, these commodities will also likely face additional scrutiny at Chinese ports during the investigation.

## Drought support information

Information on dry conditions support and assistance measures can be found on GPSA's website at [www.tinyurl.com/drought2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/drought2018)

## 6.1 metre night trial for agricultural machinery

**Growers within the Kimba and Wudinna District are now able to register their interest to participate in a night travel trial for agricultural vehicles and combinations up to 6.1 metre wide.**

GPSA's Transport and Supply Chain Committee has been actively lobbying the Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure (DPTI) to begin this trial, following the earlier night travel approval for vehicles up to 4m wide.

The 6.1 metre trial is anticipated to go for 6-12 months, beginning in February 2019, and will be used to assess the benefits and impacts of moving wide agricultural vehicles at night.

The potential for greater success depends on all local growers registering to participate to take the trial to the next step.

**More information, including the full eligibility criteria and conditions of access can be found here: [www.tinyurl.com/6-1mTrial](http://www.tinyurl.com/6-1mTrial)**

## NFF Launches 'Common Roads, Common Sense' campaign

**Australian farmers need to access public roadways to move their large agricultural vehicles (LAVs) from farm to farm. For other road users, this can seem confusing, frustrating or overwhelming.**

A new campaign by the National Farmers'



**LOOK OUT  
SLOW DOWN  
TAKE CARE**

Federation called 'Common Roads, Common Sense' outlines simple steps to help guide driver behaviour:

1. Look out.
2. Slow down
3. Take Care

**You can help to raise awareness by sharing the campaign on Facebook here: [www.tinyurl.com/CommonRoads](http://www.tinyurl.com/CommonRoads)**

## Government flags changes to CFS powers

**The State Government has flagged changes that will give CFS officers new powers to direct the cessation of harvesting and other activities that may pose a fire risk based on weather conditions.**

GPSA understands that the intent of the changes is to be able to prevent high risk activities during the fire danger season, including harvesting outside of the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, as well as activities such as welding and angle grinding.

GPSA has scheduled an urgent meeting with the responsible Minister, Corey Wingard, and will be seeking further details and assurances to ensure that there are no unintended consequences for producers who do the right thing.

To assist growers in abiding by the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, GPSA is asking growers, 'how well do you Know Your Code?'. This is the next phase of the successful Know Your Code campaign originally launched in 2016.

**Learn more about Know Your Code at [www.tinyurl.com/KnowYourCode](http://www.tinyurl.com/KnowYourCode)**

## GM Moratorium Update

**Parliament's Select Committee inquiry into the GM crop moratorium has recently conducted its first hearings. The Committee, comprised of Legislative Councillors John Dawkins (Liberal), Emily Bourke (Labor), Mark Parnell (Greens), and John Darley (Independent) heard from PIRSA chief executive Scott Ashby and Adelaide University Professor Andrew Barr.**

Mr Ashby gave a broad overview of the current regulatory framework, including PIRSA's role, as well as the factors that feed into the GM debate. Professor Barr highlighted the benefits of GM crops, particularly the 'value add' varieties such as Omega3 canola, as well as the proven ability to segregate different varieties.

Over 50 submissions have been received by the Committee, with further hearings scheduled for December and into 2019. **GPSA will be appearing before the Committee at 9:30am on December 12.**

PIRSA's independent review into the moratorium, which is being conducted by Emeritus Professor Kym Anderson, has received over 200 submissions.

## Are you unable to supply grain to fulfill a contract?

With harvest under way in many parts of SA, the full extent of drought and frost damage in crops is being realised. Growers who have contracts in place are urged to consider their likely harvest yields and quality, whether they will have enough grain and potential legal risks of not supplying contracted tonnages.

Growers are encouraged to proactively manage these risks. GPSA recommends getting in touch with your broker or trader to consider risk management options sooner rather than later.

For growers who think they may not be able to physically deliver grain against their contract, you may need to consider a contract washout.

**More information is available on GPSA's website: [www.tinyurl.com/GPSAwashouts](http://www.tinyurl.com/GPSAwashouts)**