



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

# News

NOVEMBER 2019

## SA's GM moratorium to remain

South Australian grain producers will continue to be denied access to GM crops after Labor, SA-Best, and the Greens blocked the Government's attempt to remove the GM moratorium from mainland SA.

However, the Government has now indicated that it will work with industry to consider what other policy options may be achievable.

GPSA has been working hard to promote the need for grower choice; engaging all sides of politics, representing growers in formal inquiries and running a social media campaign to engage the broader community.

Just this week, readers of the Advertiser would have seen two front page stories on the moratorium and two supportive editorials from the paper. The moratorium has also been heavily covered on radio, with many producers and researchers calling in to voice their support for removing the moratorium.

After an Independent Review, a parliamentary inquiry, and two public consultation meetings, the weight of

evidence is firmly behind removing the moratorium.

The Independent Review has demonstrated that the moratorium offers little in the way of trade and marketing benefits to the majority of agricultural producers in SA and only removes the option of using GM tools which have been independently proven to be safe and effective.

GPSA believes that growers should have the freedom of choice to grow the cereal, legume and oilseed varieties that best fit their farming system. This means having access to GM crops.

GPSA's position is not about picking winning production systems, but rather enabling all producers to have the freedom of individual choice in their own businesses.

More information is available on GPSA's website: [www.tinyurl.com/2019GMFS](http://www.tinyurl.com/2019GMFS)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2019 WEATHER FORECAST TODAY POSSIBLE SHOWER, 28°C TOMORROW MOSTLY SUNNY, 21°C \$1.90

**The Advertiser** We're for you

TEST CRICKET  
WINNING AUSSIES EYE ADELAIDE [SEE SPORT]

THE RIPPLE EFFECT  
DISTURBING MYTH OF 'SAFE' MDMA [SEE PAGE 9]

**SCIENTISTS URGE  
MPs TO END BAN  
ON GM CROPS**

DANIEL WILLS  
LEADING SA scientists and the state's grain producers today have urged all state MPs to back the abolition of a ban on genetically modified crops.  
In a bold entry to an often-emotional political debate over GM, the eminent scientists say farmers need new technology to deal with climate change.  
CONTINUED PAGE 2

Picture: DEAN MATTIAR

**Pre-Xmas uni offers**  
TIM WILLIAMS  
UP to 10,000 university hopefuls will receive offers in an expanded pre-Christmas round, meaning those won't have to wait through the festive season for news on their future.  
The first of the January offer rounds was usually the largest, until the SA Tertiary Admissions Centre introduced a December round last year that compressed first preferences.  
This year, applicants full list of preferences will be considered on or before December 20.  
REPORT PAGE 3

**SPECIAL REPORT CBD's sinister asbestos secret revealed**  
COLIN JAMES  
RETAILERS have paid compensation to staff who contracted fatal illnesses from exposure to asbestos from exposure to asbestos stored in the 1960s, court documents show.  
David Jones, Myer and John Martin's have been sued by staff who developed mesothelioma from asbestos sprayed on steel beams. The asbestos has since been removed through demolition or decontamination.  
CONTINUED PAGE 4

**DEVILS IN THE DUST**

**HISTORIC WILLIAM LIGHT PAINTING FAILS TO SELL** [PAGE 13]



## Eyre Peninsula Visit

Earlier this month GPSA Regional Field Officer Shane Gale visited members throughout the Cleve Hills on the state's Eyre Peninsula.

The visit came shortly after a meeting of the CFS Fire Prevention Strategic Alliance Committee, where Shane reiterated the steps that grain producers take to mitigate fire risk. All of the farms Shane visited (including John Turnbull in the Cleve Hills, pictured) had shared Grassland Fire Danger Index information with neighbours, and had made a collective decision to cease harvesting and grain handling operations in the paddock based on the adverse conditions that day.

As the convenor of Primary Producers SA's Transport and Supply Chain Committee, Shane contributed to a workshop in the southern EP on braking distances on agricultural vehicles with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, and organised by Karen Baines.

Shane's visit also coincided with the opening of the T-Ports bunker facility in Lucky Bay.

# Government listens to grower concerns on Fire and Emergency Services Bill.

**After listening to grower concerns aired in a Parliamentary Select Committee, the Government has revised its changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Bill.**

The Government had originally intended to give CFS personnel, including volunteers, the power to order the cessation of harvest activities where it could lead to a fire getting out of control.

GPSA and many growers aired concerns about the inappropriateness of these powers, and highlighted the success of the grain industry's self regulation efforts through the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.



The revised Bill, which was tabled in Parliament this week, incorporates the Select Committee's recommendations. This includes giving SA Police officers the power to direct that an activity be stopped if it could cause a fire, or cause a fire to get out of control.

Any direction to stop harvesting must be supported by the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice. A person who fails to obey a direction would be liable for a \$5,000 fine.

The practical implementation of these powers would be that they are only exercised by SA Police, and only after being checked against the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice. This may require the assistance of a CFS officer, council fire prevention officer, or the use of weather station data.

The vast majority of growers do the right thing and abide by the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.

Growers who do the right thing will not fall foul of the law. Only growers who blatantly flout the Code will be targeted by these powers.

More information on the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice is available on GPSA's website: [www.tinyurl.com/knowyourcode](http://www.tinyurl.com/knowyourcode)

## IBC Container Survey

**Growers are being asked to provide feedback on disposal practices for IBCs (aka 1,000 litre shuttles) in a survey conducted by Agsafe.**

Agsafe is an industry-led non-profit organisation following a commitment to product stewardship by the Board of Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Association (now CropLife Australia), to ensure safe supply, use and disposal of agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals and containers through the supply chain.

The results of this survey will give insights into the issue and allow for the development of more sustainable farming practices for the future.

Growers can complete the two minute survey at:

[www.surveymonkey.com/r/IBC\\_Survey](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IBC_Survey)

The survey closes on 12 December 2019.



## Uncertainty continues from Chinese anti-dumping investigation

China's anti-dumping investigation against the Australian barley industry will continue until at least 19 May 2020, with the outcome remaining uncertain.

Australian growers should be aware of this market risk as they approach next year's planting period.

China is Australia's largest barley export market and Australia is the largest supplier of barley to China. This investigation has created uncertainty within the Australian grain market, that has resulted in downward pressure on Australian barley prices.

Growers should also be aware of the broad range of factors that may also impact barley prices over the coming season. While the issues surrounding the China export market are uncertain, other factors would include issues such as global weather and plantings for grain crops in other countries.

Growers are encouraged to consider their specific circumstances and to seek advice from their independent market advisors or consultants in relation their grain marketing and crop rotation options.

More information is available at: [www.tinyurl.com/vspln6g](http://www.tinyurl.com/vspln6g)

## Drought support information

Information on dry conditions support and assistance measures can be found on GPSA's website at [www.tinyurl.com/drought2019](http://www.tinyurl.com/drought2019)



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