



## In the news: our push to lift South Australia's GM moratorium

### GPSA's continual advocacy on behalf of SA growers has caught national attention.

*The Australian* recently spoke to GPSA CEO Caroline Rhodes and board director Adrian McCabe about the impact of South Australia's longstanding GM moratorium and the Government's independent review into the ban.

As highlighted by *The Australian*, the moratorium prevents grower choice, limits cultivation techniques, and creates significant transport and logistics issues for WA and eastern states growers.

GPSA is advocating for an evidence-

based approach to policy, rather than one focused on political ideology. This position is not about picking winning production systems, but rather enabling all producers to have the freedom of individual choice in their own businesses.

GPSA's report into the moratorium, undertaken by independent expert market analysts Mercardo, found that there are no premiums being delivered to the majority of South Australian farmers because of the state's status as free of genetically modified crops.

The South Australian Government's independent review, chaired by Professor Kym Anderson, is due to be completed in early 2019.

Read more from *The Australian* here: <https://tinyurl.com/TheOzGM>



## Help prevent harvester fires! Know your code!

### The Grains Research and Development Corporation recently held harvester fire workshops at Clare and Cummins to assist producers in minimising the risk of harvester fires, with GPSA policy officer Shane Gale presenting at the workshops.

On average, seven per cent of harvesters will start a fire every year. Harvester fires can cause significant damage to the machine in addition to surrounding crops and may place people, including family, staff and neighbours, at risk.

The workshops incorporated:

- An update on the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice (the Code) and the Grassland Fire Danger Index (GFDI),
- Harvester preparation and management, including preventative maintenance checks, harvester hygiene, and practical modifications that can be made to reduce heat accumulation,
- Fire management plans, includ-

ing working with the CFS and their chain of command,

- The personal experiences of other growers who have been impacted by fires.

GPSA was pleased to hear that growers in attendance were compliant with the Code and were familiar with its content.

There was substantial interest from growers on calculating the GFDI and using up to date meteorological measuring equipment and data.

CFS Acting Director of Preparedness Operations Commander Brett Loughlin said the workshops were a fantastic partnership between GRDC, GPSA and government. "I was very impressed to see so

many local farmers at the workshops who were so engaged in the topic of harvester fire risk and actively advocating for fire safety," he said.

To assist growers in abiding by the Code, 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.

The Know Your Code campaign encourages growers to take five simple steps to reduce the risk of harvester fires: 1. Preparation, 2. Maintenance, 3. Monitoring, 4. Safe operations and 5. Communication.

Learn more about Know Your Code at <https://tinyurl.com/KnowYourCode>



# Draft Mining and Resources Industry Land Access Dispute Resolution Code

**The draft Mining and Resources Land Access Dispute Resolution Code was released for public comment last month, with GPSA's Mining Act Review Taskforce developing a submission on behalf of primary producers.**

The Code aims to provide a mechanism to resolve land access disputes outside of expensive court proceedings by compelling parties to participate in mediation overseen by the Office of the Small Business Commissioner. This process is designed to minimise the cost and time involved in resolving commercial disputes. In this instance, the intent of the code is to provide a mechanism for the Commissioner to assist primary producers and resources companies in reaching agreement over land access disputes.

However, as identified in GPSA's submission, the draft Code falls short of the Government's election commitment. Prior to the March 2018

state election, the Liberal Party committed to resourcing 'the Commissioner to undertake work on behalf of primary producers seeking advice/resolution for land access issues involving resource companies.'

'When the dispute is between a small farming business and a larger resource company, it will be the role of the Small Business Commissioner to advocate on behalf of the farming business. If both parties are small businesses, the Commissioner will work to help both parties come to an agreement.'

In addition, GPSA believes that access to enforceable mediation should only be available at the request of primary producers, and that mediation costs should be borne by resources companies in a manner similar to the way in which native title mining disputes are paid.

GPSA has called for the implementation of the Code to be deferred until the proposed amendments to the Mining Act are settled by Parliament.



## NFF Trade Update

**The NFF's Trade Committee was recently briefed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade on the status of Free Trade Agreement negotiations with a range of countries.**

As you may have seen in the news, the Australian and Indonesian governments have concluded negotiations on the Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement, which is due to be signed before Christmas. Under the Agreement, Indonesia will guarantee the automatic issue of import permits for feed grains and provide duty free access for 500,000 tonnes of feed grain each year, with the volume increasing by 5% each year thereafter.

Negotiations with the European Union are continuing, with the second round due to take place in November. The current EU trade position contains several red flags for primary producers including market access provisions as well as safeguards on rules of origin. Australian negotiations with the UK continue to be dependent on Britain's own negotiations concerning their exit from the EU.

## Heavy vehicle work diary exemption for growers

GPSA is pleased to confirm that the NHVR has renewed the 160km work diary exemption for primary producers who are transporting produce. This exemption was originally introduced in 2015 and allows primary producers to transport produce in a vehicle over 12 tonnes within a 160km radius of their base.

More information on NHVR's heavy vehicle fatigue laws can be found at [www.nhvr.gov.au/fatigue](http://www.nhvr.gov.au/fatigue)

## Brand SA Agribusiness Industry Briefing

South Australia's agribusiness success stories are being showcased by Brand SA throughout October as part of the 'I Choose SA' campaign.

GPSA CEO Caroline Rhodes spoke to the Brand SA Industry Briefing on October 9 alongside Primary Industries and Regional Development Minister Tim Whetstone and Pork SA Chairman Mark McLean, highlighting the important contribution that grain producers make to our state's economy.

Caroline's presentation incorporated PIRSA's promotional video which showcases South Australia's grains industry.

Watch the video here: <https://tinyurl.com/PIRSAvideo>

