



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

# News

SEPTEMBER 2018

## GROWING SA 2018 a great success

The second ever GROWING SA Conference held earlier this month at the Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf, was another resounding success with 250 delegates turning out for the event.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development Tim Whetstone was among the keynote speakers at the event and used his address to detail the government's announcement that Emeritus Professor Kym Anderson AO would lead the expert review into SA's moratorium on the cultivation of genetically modified crops.

GPSA has campaigned hard for the moratorium to be lifted with the view that South Australia growers should have the freedom to grow whatever cultivars best fit their farming system.

In its election policy document released to all major parties prior to the State Election held in March, GPSA called for an independent review into the moratorium.

International guest Dr Stuart Smyth from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada, was another keynote presenter at GROWING SA, highlighting the economic, health and agronomic benefits GM crops can provide based on the Canadian experience.

Delegates also heard from Victorian grower Andrew Weidemann, Rupa-



nyup, on how co-existence between GM and non-GM crops is achievable and from Mecardo's Andrew Whitelaw who presented findings from a report released earlier this year which found that the majority of South Australian farmers do not receive a premium price for their produce as a result of SA being GM-free.

GPSA's AGM was held as part of the day where new Directors Tanja Morgan, Jabuk, and Peter Cousins, Crystal Brook, were elected, replacing retiring Directors Garry Hansen, Com-mandook, and Stephen Ball, Riverton.

Copies of the GPSA annual report are available online on the GPSA website.

**Details: Those who missed out on the event can catch up at the following links:**

**GROWING SA 2018 podcast:** [bit.ly/GSA18podcast](http://bit.ly/GSA18podcast)

**GROWING SA 2018 gallery:** [bit.ly/GSA18gallery](http://bit.ly/GSA18gallery)

**GPSA Facebook page with live streams of selected presentations:** [facebook.com/grainproducerssa](https://facebook.com/grainproducerssa)

## Dry conditions support and assistance

**Grain producers who are experiencing financial difficulties or who have concerns about the financial impacts of the continuing dry season can contact the Rural Financial Counselling Service, which provides free, confidential and impartial business support and information.**

The Rural Financial Counselling service is also able to pro-

vide support in the application process for Farm Household Allowance and Farm Management Deposits. In South Australia, this program is delivered through Rural Business Support.

**Details: Phone Rural Business Support, 1800 836 211. Additional business and financial assistance can also be found through the following services and programs listed in the Fact Sheet published on [GPSA's website](http://GPSA's website).**

## Improving mining regulation in SA

The need to balance agriculture with competing land uses was a hot topic at GROWING SA 2018, following widespread concern about the Government's Bill to amend the Mining Act 1971.

The Statutes Amendment (Mineral Resources) Bill 2018 was introduced into Parliament on 2 August, by the Minister for Energy and Mining Dan van Holst Pellekaan. GPSA has since held a number of meetings with the Minister to represent the interests of our members impacted by mining operations.

Working with both Primary Producers SA and Livestock SA, GPSA is calling for amendments to strengthen the rights of land holders and address the imbalance which has been carried forward from the previous Bill, which lapsed in the last Parliament. A joint Mining Review Taskforce has been established to oversee this policy work.

GPSA also attended a Farmers Forum in Maitland to hear directly from growers concerned about the Bill. The forum, chaired by former MLC Rob Brokenshire, was well-attended with about 250 farmers turning out from across the Yorke Peninsula and Lower North regions. GPSA will keep members informed about the progress of the Bill and associated regulations.

Details: Listen to the GROWING SA podcast with Minister for Primary Industries and Regions Tim Whetstone [bit.ly/GSA18Whetstone](http://bit.ly/GSA18Whetstone)

Listen to the GROWING SA podcast with GPSA Chair Wade Dabinett and Livestock SA President Joe Keynes in which the Mining Act is discussed [bit.ly/GSA18Dabinett-Keynes](http://bit.ly/GSA18Dabinett-Keynes)

GPSA Hot Topic – Mining Act [bit.ly/MiningAct18](http://bit.ly/MiningAct18)



## Meet the new GPSA Directors

**GPSA welcomed two new Directors to its Board at its AGM held earlier this month as part of GROWING SA 2018.**

Peter Cousins, Crystal Brook, and Tanja Morgan, Jabuk, were elected to the GPSA Board replacing retiring Directors Garry Hansen, Coomandook, and Stephen Ball, Riverton.

Peter has been instrumental in advocating on behalf of growers at both the state and national level on the issue of spray drift and felt it was a natural progression to put his hand up to be part of the GPSA Board.

He was instrumental in launching GPSA's Hit Your Target campaign which encourages growers to take the right steps to minimise the risk of off-target chemical damage.

Along with fellow Mid North-based consultant Mick Faulkner, Peter was a key figure in getting State Government funding earlier this year to establish a network of weather stations across the region to help growers better monitor conditions when spraying.

Peter is particularly passionate about growers maintaining access to important herbicides which are often used as part of their summer spraying program, such as Group I chemicals.

Tanja farms with her husband Adam as part of a grain, hay and sheep production enterprise. She also works as a project manager for Mallee Sustainable Farming and has previously been a Trustee with the South Australian Grain Industry Trust.

She always enjoyed the challenge of working in low-rainfall farming systems and over 20 years involved in agriculture she has seen how advances in technology, varieties and systems have improved the landscape.

Tanja feels strongly about the need to continue to advocate for agricultural research, development and extension and is looking forward to

contributing to policies which help growers farm profitably and sustainably.

Both Tanja and Peter have served on GPSA's Research Development & Extension sub-committee.

Details: Peter Cousins, 0408 210 893; Tanja Morgan, 0429 395 918



## Online resource for mental health

**University of South Australia Research Fellow Dr Kate Fennell has developed an online resource called iFarmWell.**

The website is designed to help farmers cope effectively with life's challenges and get the most out of every day, which it does by sharing practical ways of coping with difficult circumstances, thoughts and feelings and helping to work out where it is most useful for farmers to put their attention and energy.

The resource is free and can be accessed online.

Details: [ifarmwell.com.au](http://ifarmwell.com.au)