



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

News

SEPTEMBER 2020

Councils finalise deliberations on GM



After being provided with a time-limited opportunity to apply for designation as a GM-free region, many councils in key growing areas have decided to provide producers with the choice to grow the cereal, legume, and oilseed varieties ahead of the 2021 season.

GPSA understands that councils in Adelaide's metropolitan fringe, and in the McLaren Vale and Barossa wine regions will be applying to the Minister for Primary Industries to be designated as GM-free. All applications must be considered by the expert GM Crop Advisory Committee before the Minister makes a final decision by November 15.

Councils can only apply to be GM-free where there are trade or marketing benefits for doing so. Concerns about the health or safety of GM crops cannot be considered by the Minister. If a council application for GM-free status is

ultimately successful, only the commercial cultivation will be prohibited. This means that transport of GM seed, grain, and end products will not be affected. Similarly, a council's GM free status will not prohibit the sale of GM products, including in supermarkets. Research of GM varieties may also occur in these areas with the consent of the Minister.

Removing state-based restrictions on the commercial cultivation of GM crops has been a high priority for GPSA. While a council designation process was not GPSA's preferred outcome, it provides a pathway for producers on mainland SA to access GM material. The GM crop moratorium will remain in place indefinitely on Kangaroo Island.

GPSA strongly encourages all producers to complete GM crop accreditation courses to better understand the licensing and stewardship protocols and technology management plans that are in place for GM varieties. However, before signing contracts or receiving seed, GPSA is encouraging growers to wait for the Government to assess any application by their local council.

GPSA will provide growers with information on GM-free areas once the process has finalised in mid-November.

More information is available through the SA Government's 23 Billion by 2030 website: www.23billionby2030.com.au

SA Government launches Growth State plan for Food, Wine & Agribusiness sector

A new industry-led plan has been launched by the South Australian Government to drive growth across the Food, Wine, & Agribusiness sector, with a goal to reach \$23 billion in gross state product by 2030.

The Government has identified our sector as a key driver of future growth, with a target of 3% year-on-year across the sector, in line with the Government's broader target to double SA's average economic growth.

The plan incorporates key aspects of the recently launched SA Grain Industry Blueprint, and focusses on achieving growth through:

- Adopting new technology to grow productivity
- developing a skilled workforce

- improving our digital and transport infrastructure
- creating new market opportunities
- ensuring production is sustainable
- and establishing an operating environment that is supported by responsive and effective regulation.

Through Primary Producers SA, GPSA will continue to have input into the plan and its implementation, including working with government to deliver specific benefits for the grains sector.

The plan specifically singles out key elements for our sector, including \$1.2 million for the establishment of a pulse cooperative research centre.

Read our plan to become a \$6 billion industry by 2030 at

blueprint.grainproducerssa.com.au

This project is proudly supported by the Government of South Australia.



ROADWORTHY HEAVY VEHICLES... *Made Easy!*

ROADWORTHY HEAVY VEHICLES... *Made Easy!* This program has been funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Program, with the support of the Federal Government.



Heavy vehicle workshops a success!

The first round of the Roadworthy Heavy Vehicles ... Made Easy! workshops was a huge success, with over 250 people attending 15 workshops held across the state.

The workshops introduced heavy vehicle laws and their impact on primary producers, including the requirements of the National Heavy Vehicle Inspection Manual, and have been designed to help SA primary producers understand road safety and their compliance and maintenance responsibilities for heavy vehicle roadworthiness. Officers from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator also made themselves available at some workshops to raise awareness on safety management systems.

These workshops were open to all PPSA commodity group members, with 82% of attendees saying that the information and presenters were directly relevant to their business.

Members who missed the first round of workshops, will be able to take part in a second round, to be held from January 2021.

Over 70 per cent of attendees have told GPSA that they are likely to make changes to their business after attending the workshops. Many attendees said learning how to assess their current safety management systems and increasing their levels of record keeping when heavy vehicle maintenance is completed were great pieces of advice which they could implement in their business.

All theory workshop participants had the opportunity to take part in a heavy vehicle maintenance check to receive further valuable tips and hints on heavy vehicle roadworthiness.

To learn more about the project, visit www.grainproducerssa.com.au

This program is funded by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Heavy Vehicle Initiative Program, with the support of the Commonwealth Government.

Mining Regulations consultation closes

GPSA has continued to advocate for meaningful changes to SA's mining law through changes to Mining Regulations, which underpin the Mining Act, and which are due to take effect in January 2021.

The regulations provide substantive technical detail for matters of importance for growers, including land access, the provision of information to landowners, and compliance and enforcement of conditions.

GPSA made a range of recommendations in its submission to the Department designed to foster greater understanding for landowners about the nature of proposed mining operations on their land, as well as strengthening assessments of social and business impacts from mining operations on farm businesses. While these recommendations are limited, the Regulations can only be made in conjunction with the broader legal framework.

The Australian Government's Productivity Commission is currently assessing mining law to find examples of best practice across Australia. The final report from the Productivity Commission, due in November, may encourage the South Australian Government to undertake further, overdue reform of SA's mining law.

More information is available at www.grainproducerssa.com.au



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HOW WELL DO YOU ...

KNOW YOUR CODE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S GRAIN HARVESTING CODE OF PRACTICE
OUTLINES A NUMBER OF ON-FARM ACTIONS TO REDUCE FIRE RISK.

[Read more](#)



Harvest code resources available for all growers

As harvest approaches, GPSA is reminding members of the importance of adhering to the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, which outlines the conditions under which grain harvesting and handling should occur in the paddock, including operating grain harvesters, vehicles involved in grain transport, and grain dryers and augers.

Producers are encouraged to take five simple steps to help reduce the risk of harvester fires: 1. Preparation, 2. Maintenance, 3. Monitoring, 4. Safe operations and 5. Communication.

Recent changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act means that SA Police now have the power to direct that a producer's harvesting operations cease where it may cause a fire, or cause a fire to get out of control. In considering whether to direct that harvesting operations cease, SA Police will have regard to whether producers are operating in accordance with the Grain Harvesting Code of Practice, and the Grassland Fire Danger Index.

The CFS and SA Police will be running an information campaign throughout harvest to ensure that producers are aware of their obligations under the Code.

More information on the Code is available on www.grainproducerssa.com.au

Meet the new directors

Want to learn more about GPSA's new directors?

Visit GPSA's website to find a brief background about each director, including their contact details.

www.grainproducerssa.com.au/about/directors/