



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

News

MARCH 2021

Mining inquiry gives farmers a chance to be heard

GPSA welcomes the establishment of the Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiry on land access arrangements for mineral exploration companies.

A Select Committee has been established to inquire and report on SA's land access arrangements concerning mining and exploration activity on agricultural land, thanks to a push from the expanded crossbench in the Lower House of State Parliament.

One of the key purposes of the Inquiry is to report on and make recommendations as to measures that should be implemented to achieve a best practice model in South Australia, that balances the rights of landowners and those seeking to access land for exploration.

This is an important opportunity to undertake a thorough and meaningful review of existing laws, independent of the department charged with both promoting and regulating the regime.

GPSA has strongly advocated for an independent review of SA's resources law since 2017. GPSA has developed a long list of policy reforms that are yet to be enacted, and we continue to push for fairer outcomes for farmers both publicly and behind the scenes.

SA farmers have reported a range of unsatisfactory dealings with exploration companies, including explorers failing to comply with their obligation to compensate landholders for drilling, and failing to remedy drill holes despite this forming part of their land access conditions.

This has contributed to both disputes and high levels of stress

for many farmers faced with these issues.

The Inquiry now offers the chance for individuals, community groups and industry bodies to put forward their views directly to policymakers.

This is the next logical step in progressing meaningful reform in this area, being timely to shed a light on the performance of the existing arrangements in SA and consider how other jurisdictions manage the process of exploration, mining and extraction of agricultural land.

The importance of this inquiry extends to the many farming families who have been impacted by resource entities seeking access to cropping land across large areas of both the Eyre and Yorke peninsulas.

The final report is set to be tabled in November this year, ahead of the 2022 election.

GPSA will be calling on our Mining Taskforce to inform our submission to the Committee.

You can find more information on the Inquiry process on the GPSA website.



Grain Industry Fund contribution rate proposal

GPSA is currently consulting with South Australian growers regarding a proposal to temporarily lift the Grain Industry Fund by 11 cents per tonne in order to eradicate lens snail.

Lens snail has been detected and contained in metropolitan Adelaide at four neighbouring sites. There is a unique opportunity to eradicate the snail while it is contained to the four sites so SA's market access can be maintained.

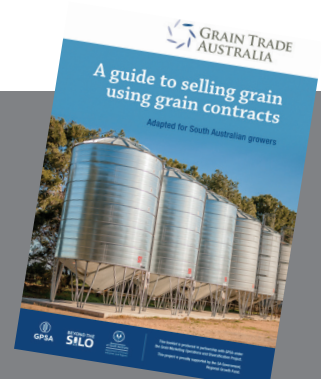
The eradication program is a significant and complex undertaking which includes clean up and treatment of large amount of heavy equipment at the sites where the snail has been detected, followed by two years of monitoring to demonstrate eradication has been successful. This is estimated to cost \$1.663 million.

To cover this cost, a temporary lift in the Grain Industry Fund contribution rate by 11 cents per tonne is proposed, making the rate 31 cents per tonne as of 1 July 2021. The 11 cents per tonne increase would only be in place for two years, subject to average seasons.

There is a unique opportunity to act prudently to immediately eradicate lens snail while it is confined to the metropolitan area to ensure there is no future detrimental impact on market access for the South Australian grain industry.

Read the full notice on the [GPSA website](#).

Remember to check out GPSA's producer guide to selling grain using grain contracts, adapted specifically for South Australian growers in partnership with Grain Trade Australia, available now via bit.ly/GPSA-BTS



Have your say on the Farm Management Deposits Scheme

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is undertaking an evaluation of the Farm Management Deposits Scheme (FMDS) to ensure it meets expectations of users and operates efficiently.

The FMDS, established in 1999, is the Australian Government's flagship tax measure helping primary producers to prepare for income downturns, including those caused by drought.

As part of the FMDS, eligible primary producers are able to set aside up to \$800,000 in pre-tax income to draw on future years, when needed.

Balances held in FMD accounts have increased steadily over the past decade to \$5.3 billion.

The evaluation will assess the operation of the FMDS, including if the policy objectives are being met and if the FMDS is being administered effectively.

Does the FMDS meet your expectations?

Have your say today at <https://haveyoursay.awe.gov.au/farm-management-deposits-scheme-evaluation>

Top tips to manage pests pre-sowing

Mice are causing concern across the country this year, with summer crops in the eastern states being hit particularly hard and high numbers being reported in the SA Mallee region.

GPSA encourages growers to ensure they up-to-date on mice control best practice by accessing the latest advice via the GRDC Mouse Control resource page.

Experts recommend six top tips for managing mice:

1. Know your situation – walk through and inspect paddocks regularly
2. Reduce residual food
3. Discuss bait requirements with suppliers well in advance
4. Bait six weeks out from sowing if numbers warrant early treatment
5. Bait at sowing – preferably off the back of the seeder
6. Monitor numbers after each bait application

You can find out more by watching the latest GRDC Mouse Update available via bit.ly/2ZmOrln

New SARDI snail research supports better timing of controls

SARDI's major research program on snail biology has now been completed, providing greater insight into the timing of control methods.

The results from the research led by SARDI in collaboration with DPIRD, University of South Australia, University of Adelaide and farming systems groups with GRDC investment is now available via the PIRSA website.

An updated snail management manual is due to be released later in 2021. In the meantime, tips for effective baiting strategies backed by the research include:

1. Select a bait product according to forecast conditions.

China's tariffs on Australian barley head to World Trade Organization

The next step has been taken in the China-Australia barley dispute following the announcement by Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment Dan Tehan that Australia will formally request the World Trade Organization (WTO) establish a Dispute Panel on the matter.

In October 2020, China indicated that it had no plans to revoke the tariffs on Australia barley.

The grain industry welcomes the Australian request toward resolving the anti-dumping and countervailing duty measures applied to Australian barley.

If the WTO decide to establish a Dispute Panel, the Panel will examine the details of the anti-dumping claim and China's justification for imposing tariffs on Australia barley, and issue a report for consideration by both parties and all WTO members.

The impact of this issue on Australian barley markets reinforces that ensuring market access for Australian agriculture is of critical importance, and highlights that strengthening new and existing trade relationships must remain a priority for the Australian Government.

GPSA will continue to keep members up to date on the WTO process as it progresses.



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2. Calibrate your bait spreader for your chosen bait product to ensure even spread.
3. Avoid application before heavy rainfall or at soil surface temperatures > 35°C. Exposure to high heat can degrade metaldehyde active ingredients, although UV exposure does not, and rain can break down bran-based pellets. Store unused bait in cool, dry conditions, avoiding hot sheds.
4. Pellet densities of at least 30 pellet points per m² (up to 60 per m² where snail densities exceed approx. 120 snails per m²) are required to ensure an adequate chance of encounter. Re-apply bait as required according to label directions.

The full report and research findings are available via bit.ly/38Vljx2