



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

News

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Minister to decide GM free areas



Following sixteen years of being denied freedom of choice, South Australian growers will soon have the certainty they need to consider GM varieties as part of their 2021 crop rotation.

Following a once-off 6-month period for councils to consult their communities and consider any trade or marketing impacts, just 11 councils have opted to apply to the Minister for Primary Industries David Basham to be declared a GM cultivation-free area.

Under SA's GM crop legislation, the Minister must consider applications made for trade and marketing reasons, but is not obliged to accept the applications. Specifically, applications have been submitted by 11 councils including; Adelaide Hills, Alexandrina, Barossa, Berri Barmera, Gawler, Mount Barker, Onkaparinga, Playford, Tea Tree Gully, Victor Harbor, and Yankalilla.

If a council's application for GM-free status is ultimately successful, only the commercial cultivation of GM crops

will be prohibited. Under carveouts secured by GPSA, the transport of GM seed, grain, and end products will not be restricted. 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.

All 11 applications are currently being considered by the expert GM Crop Advisory Committee, who will make recommendations to inform the Minister's final decision which must be handed down by November 15.

GPSA will inform members if any council is successful in applying to be a GM cultivation-free area.

Under the legislation, councils declared GM cultivation-free may apply to the Minister to have this status revoked in future. However, no new applications to be GM-free will be allowed following this process. 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, GPSA encourages growers to wait for the Minister to make a decision on council applications before signing contracts or receiving seed.

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

The Know Your Code campaign jointly run by GPSA and the CFS provides a checklist for growers to ensure they are adhering to the on-farm actions of the Code.

The Code has two legislated requirements which growers must abide by - when using a stationary engine to auger grain, a person who is able to control the engine must be present when it is in use, or an area of at least four metres around must be cleared. Producers must also carry a shovel or rake, portable water spray and ensure engine and exhaust systems comply with regulations.

In addition to familiarising themselves with the Code, growers are also reminded that recent changes to the Fire and Emergency Services Act mean SA Police now have the power to direct that a producer's harvesting operations cease where it may cause a fire.

As part of this consideration, SA Police will have regard to whether producers are operating in accordance with the Code. The CFS and SA Police will run an information campaign throughout harvest to ensure that producers are aware of their obligations.

GPSA has compiled resources and information relating to the code, including flyers and case studies with other growers, which is available at www.tinyurl.com/GPSA-KYC2020



Harvest safety resources available for growers

As harvest gets underway across many parts of South Australia, Grain Producers SA is reminding growers to familiarise themselves with the South Australian Grain Harvesting Code of Practice.

The Code 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.

Public consultation on revised Biosecurity Act now open

The South Australian Government is in the process of developing a new Biosecurity Act with the aim to provide a simpler, modern and more effective legislative framework for the management of pests and diseases, plant and animal product trade, and response to biosecurity emergencies.

Currently, South Australia's biosecurity system is provided for by a number of different Acts, which can add complexity. The new Biosecurity Act will consolidate these Acts into a modern framework for managing SA's biosecurity, and provide a more cohesive and flexible approach to managing biosecurity risks.

GPSA has convened a Biosecurity Taskforce to identify grower's key industry priorities in regard to the consolidated Act and to inform GPSA's submission to Government.

More information on the development of the new Biosecurity Act is available on the PIRSA website: www.tinyurl.com/BiosecurityActSA

Reminder on Compliance with Label Directions & Market Requirements



GRDC and the National Working Party on Grain Protection are reminding growers to adhere to all label directions for herbicides used as a desiccant in order to meet their legal obligations of chemical usage, and to avoid unacceptable chemical residues.

Chemical residues may exceed Maximum Residue Limits in export markets, even where used in accordance with label directions. To assist growers, the GRDC have produced a fact sheet which can be found at: www.tinyurl.com/GRDC-factsheet

Growers should also consider speaking to their marketer to better understand any residue or chemical requirements.

Trade and market update

A number of trade and marketing issues have recently emerged of relevance to growers as harvest approaches.

Growers are reminded to ensure they meet grain hygiene requirements, following advice from China's General Administration of Customs that they will apply "enhanced inspection" on Australian wheat shipments to assess whether phytosanitary export requirements have been met. Shipments of Australian barley have previously been rejected by China based on the alleged presence of grain pests.

China's Minister of Commerce has also advised Grain Producers Australia that an administrative review into recent tariffs applied to Australian barley and lodged by Australian industry groups has been rejected. More information will be provided to members when it is available.

Growers are also advised that the Indian Government has extended its discounted tariff on lentils until 31 December 2020.

The previous duty of 30% + 10% tax was reduced to 10% + 10% tax in June, making an effective tariff of 11%. This was previously due to be lifted back to the 30% rate on 31 October. Growers should continue to monitor tariff developments ahead of 2021 planting decisions.

Viterra seeks exemption from Bulk Wheat Code of Conduct

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has delivered its draft decision on Viterra's application to be exempt from certain obligations under the Bulk Wheat Code of Conduct.

The Code regulates bulk wheat port terminal operators in an attempt to provide fair access to third party exporters. Parts 3-6 of the Code prevent port terminal operators from discriminating or hindering access, and by requiring a mediation or arbitration in the event of a dispute.

In July 2019, Viterra applied to the ACCC seeking to have all six of their port terminal facilities in South Australia declared exempt from Parts 3-6 of the Code. GPSA has met with both the ACCC and Viterra to better understand Viterra's application and any impact on producers.

The ACCC's draft decision proposes to exempt Viterra's Port Adelaide Inner Harbour and Outer Harbor facilities from Parts 3-6 of the Code. Port Giles, Port Lincoln, Thevenard and Wallaroo facilities would remain subject to the Code in its entirety.

GPSA's submission to the ACCC in October 2019 called for a nationally consistent, whole of supply chain approach to regulation in this area. The Code is unevenly applied across Australia, and does not capture the competition issues across the supply chain for parties other than bulk wheat exporters.

GPSA are in the process of assessing the draft decision's possible impacts, reasoning and assumptions and will continue to advocate for the best interests of growers accordingly.

GPSA's submission is available at:

www.tinyurl.com/GPSA-ACCC

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/