

**Minutes**  
**Grain Producers Australia**  
**Annual General Meeting**

Tuesday 11 June 2019  
GPSA offices  
Level 2, 180 Flinders Street, Adelaide



**Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting at 9.02am.

**Attendees**

Andrew Weidemann (Chairman)
Luke Arbuckle (Director)
Andrew Earle (Director)
Steve Ball (Director)
Barry Large (Director)
Mitch Hooke (Director)
Peter Bridgman (Director)
Ray Marshall (Director)
Matthew Madden
Brendan Taylor
Wade Dabinett
Craig Henderson
Duncan Young
Doug Smith
Brett Hoskings
Shane Gale
Robert Hardie
Alister Boyd
Leighton McDonald
Jessica Wallace
Maddison McNeil
Tanya Pittard

Via Teleconference:  
Mitchell Hooke,  
Andrew Earle, Luke Arbuckle (9.00am-9.30am)

**Apologies**

Eilieen Jorgenson  
Tim Jorgenson  
Peter Jorgenson  
Ash Fraser  
Alister falconer  
Doug Clarke  
Caroline Rhodes  
Maxie Hanf  
Zach Whale  
Caroline Rhodes

**Moved:** Doug Smith  
**Seconded:** Barry Large  
**Carried**

**Minutes**

Confirm Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Company held on 31 July 2018.

**Moved:** Doug Smith  
**Seconded:** Steve Ball  
**Carried**

## Chairman's Report

Andrew welcomed everyone to the 2019 AGM for GPA.

The past year, since our annual conference was held in late July 2018, has been another busy one for GPA. It has been a year, which has provided evidence that many of the concerns and issues GPA was founded to investigate and lobby for action on are really coming to a head.

GPA continues to advocate for a stronger grower vision for industry. If grain producers and the broader industry are to thrive into the future we need greater coordination and cooperation across the entire grains supply chain.

### GPA strategic pillars

The GPA strategic platform is based around three pillars.

1. Deliver positive tangible outcomes for Australian grain producers.
  - Advocate for micro and macro economic policies that create an environment conducive to productivity, investment and growth.
  - Support and build grain producers as leaders of their industry
  - Foster skills and capacity building
  - Participate in trade discussions with a focus on achieving greater transparency and a reduction in processes, which distort the market signals back to grain producers.
2. Ensure the grains industry has the support of the broader community
  - Within the rural communities
  - Within the broader community
  - Within the international marketplace
3. Resource management
4. Sound organisation governance and operational arrangements, sustainable financial and human resourcing

### GPA staffing growth

The growth of GPA has been very rewarding. One of the outcomes of that growth has been the increased ability to employ staff.

In March 2019, GPA welcomed on board our first full time employee. Maddison McNeil came to us with strong understanding of our industry from her farming background and time at WA Farmers as Executive Officer for grains. We are extremely pleased to have Maddison on board and look forward to the further growth of the work GPA will be able to undertake with the increased resources. Maddison is joined by Tanya Pittard who continues to work on Policy issues and manages the Board, Neil White as Company Secretary, Larissa Mullett who undertakes our communications and membership liaison work and Rohan Rainbow who is employed as our chemicals issues expert.

### Barley market impacted by Chinese anti-dumping and countervailing allegations.

Earlier in the year we were in the middle of responding to the Chinese Barley dumping allegations. Prior to the commencement of the anti-dumping case China had been a major market for Australian barley. Over the course of a couple of months the dumping allegations almost stopped any flow of barley from Australia into China. Australia has strongly refuted the dumping claims and both industry and government spent many hours carefully responding to the Chinese questionnaires. The outcome is still not known, the potential imposition of duties or tariffs has made planting barley a tougher decision for many grain producers due to the potential for price volatility.

In addition to the dumping claim the Chinese made additional allegations and commenced a second investigation, they claimed Australian farmers, growing barley, have benefitted from subsidies attached to Government grants and programs. GPA has strongly pushed back on these allegations. We know that any program offered by the State or Federal Governments are usually drought induced and have been approved as non-trade distorting under the WTO regulations.

Despite a strong case against both sets of allegations, GPA remains concerned of the possible imposition of some form of Duty on Australian barley exported to China. China imported almost 6 million tonnes of barley<sup>1</sup> in both the 16/17 and 17/18 seasons so the impact of duties and potential market reduction could be significant. There would have a considerable flow on effect down through the supply chain and would most likely lead to a halt to the Australian barley trade into China. We are very disappointed the issue had not been finalised prior to planting and had no option but to advise growers to seriously consider the market pressure that may occur when making crop choices for 2019.

### Access to Agricultural chemicals remains a GPA priority

In the chemical space we continue to support farmer access to new products for use across Australia. Over

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: ABARES Australian Commodity Statistics December 2018

the past few months GPA supported the registration of:

- Methiocarb- Slug and Snail active;
- Dinotufuron- for use in Mung Beans;
- Azoxystrobin & Tebuconazole for use in Canola and Pulses.

In addition to these registration processes we have been actively working across industry to ensure growers are aware of the current permit situation relating to the usage of 2-4D products and in particular the changed permit regulations on spray applicators and application methods.

GPA will continue to work with the APVMA and state authorities on behalf of members to ensure we can maintain a valuable product but ultimately the responsibility lies firmly in growers hands to ensure they are legally compliant in their usage of these products.

The permit extension for 24D to be used with the WEEDIT technology has come about through working on further reforms with the APVMA. GRDC information sessions were invaluable in further enhancing the current permit arrangements.

With another year's trial of glyphosate crop topping on barley treatment now in the silo we are waiting for results before progressing towards full registration for the usage of Glyphosate on Barley. The current permit for the usage of Weedmaster DST on feed barley which GPA hold for the industry will expire on the 30<sup>th</sup> July this year.

GPA has considerable concern about the lack of awareness of the bigger picture from many in the post farm gate sector. This lack of understanding is causing misinformation to be distributed and undermines our need for clear processes and an holistic approach to access to chemicals which are of considerable importance to grain production.

### **Support for our science based AgVet chemical regulator**

GPA has also represented the interest of growers at a recent senate enquiry into the APVMA. Prior to Christmas and during January GPA has been responding firmly to the proposed reforms within the APVMA to ensure that we have an efficient regulator.

### **GPA action to achieve the establishment of an Industry Good Company**

National representative groups have been meeting together for a number of years looking to develop a better system for the long-term support of industry good functions including Trade and Market Access along with classification functions for various grains. This is important work for the entire supply chain, which adds value to the industry as a whole. We were close to a long-term agreement with the major supply chain participants around funding and management of these functions. Due to a lack of Grain Trade Australia support for a fair funding model GPA and GrainGrowers Ltd worked on a new model with GRDC as the need for industry good functions to be funded in a sustainable and grower driven way remains critical to the success of our industry.

### **Grains industry review and stocks information and grain imports**

The necessity for a grain industry review has again been highlighted by the lack of transparency and information flow. The consequences of the current lack of information flow and stocks information in particular has been evident in the fraught discussions following the Federal Departments approval of wheat imports into Australia for the first time in decades.

### **GPA Grains Leadership**

In 2017, GPA successfully in obtained a federal government grant targeting leadership training. As part of this Department of Agriculture (DAWR) project we have implemented a strategic planning process with our stakeholders in 2018. In early 2019 we offered limited places, through our state partners, for attendance at a leadership forum. The forum was held in Canberra across two days in April and focussed on enhancing young leaders skills and knowledge.

### **Acknowledgment and thanks to Ray Marshall**

GPA wishes to acknowledge and thank Ray for his years of service to the grains industry. In addition to undertaking his role as a Director of GPA since 2015, Ray has been a stalwart supporter of the grains industry and GPA. He is a gentleman of strong interests and has been a passionate supporter of the need for grain production advocacy, the grains industry in WA and at a national level. He has served as a local shire councillor and served the WA industry through many organisations and committees.

Ray responds to every email and without fear or favour has promoted his broad and well researched views and the need for strong grain producer advocacy. On behalf of GPA I'd like to acknowledge Ray's contribution to GPA and the broader grains industry and personally thank him for his support of me as Chairman.

**Moved:** Andrew Weidemann

**Seconded:** Steve Ball

**Carried**

## **Financial Statements**

The Chairman presented the Financial report as moved by the Board. GPA Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2019.

**Moved:** Ray Marshall

**Seconded:** Barry Large

**Carried**

A member asked for clarification on the timing and circulation of financial statements ahead of the AGM. Discussion on the changes to revenue over the past 4 years, including the decline in direct membership. Need clarity on the revenue and expenses breakdown in the financial statements.

Discussion on GPA financial year and the timing of membership payment. GPA will work to diversify revenue streams outside of membership and direct membership.

NSWFarmers requested clarification regarding detail of the profit and loss in the 2018-19 financial year and the future financial health of GPA.

## **Appointment of Auditor**

The Board have moved:

That the appointment of the Company's auditor for the 2018-19 year be undertaken by the Board as per previous years.

**Moved:** Wade Dabinett

**Seconded:** Doug Smith

**Carried**

Andrew raised that GPA falls below the \$2M cap, however the GPA Board maintain the importance of having audited financial records.

## **Appointment of Directors**

The Meeting is asked to approve the appointment of three Directors to the GPA Board.

One nomination for position in the Western Region

Mr Gerard Paganoni

Two nominations were received for the two Director positions in the Northern Region.

Mr Andrew Earle

Mr Luke Arbuckle

The nominations were supported by the membership. Congratulations were expressed to the three Directors. It was noted that a nomination was received by Matthew Madden, however it was withdrawn prior to the AGM. There was discussion on the timing of elections and terms of directors. GPA board to work through the constitutional requirements to ensure timing of directors are appropriate and are 'de-synced'.

## **Resolutions**

There were no resolutions.

## **Other Business**

GPA will follow up on the concerns noted by NSW Farmers regarding the provision of the Financial Statement prior to the AGM.

## **Close**

The Chairman brought the 2019 Annual General Meeting to a close at 10.05am.