

Open Meeting Summary

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) held the fourth RCSN Open Meeting on 28 July 2015 at the Ferngrove Winery, Frankland River, for the Albany Port Zone. This was the fourth in a series of open meetings that are being held the day before the main RCSN meeting and offers the general public of the port zone an opportunity to come and share the issues that are affecting their profitability. The meeting was facilitated by Julianne Hill, Coordinator of the RCSN in the Western Region. A total of 29 general public guests attended from the Albany Port Zone. Members of the general public were able to register for the Open Meeting at the RCSN website at www.rcsn.net.au and were also able to submit an issue should they be unable to attend. In total, 46 people were in attendance with the following GRDC members available for meeting attendees to talk with: Roger States – GRDC Regional Manager West; Susan Hall – Member of the Western Panel and RCSN Albany member; and Julia Easton – GRDC Regional Coordinator West.

The meeting also included a presentation from Svetlana Micic and John Moore of DAFWA on effective and reasonably priced monitoring and control methods for snails and slugs in the Albany and Esperance Port Zones. In addition, Dominic Wright of DAFWA also showed some of the videos from the Training Growers YouTube channel and sought feedback on how these could be developed in the future. These presentations were well received and generated further discussion.

A key part of the open meeting was the opportunity for participants to share the top five issues affecting their profitability and to be part of the group discussions on identifying the top 10 issues affecting the group as a whole. The aim of these discussions was to provide growers with direct input into the analysis of current local priorities affecting productivity and profitability to assist in the discussions relating to future projects by the RCSN. The following table represents the top 10 issues with multiple votes and a side note on how these were taken forward in the RCSN meeting, along with 10 other issues that were also identified on the night. Each meeting member was able to vote on three issues.

Top 10 Issues (Ranked %)	RCSN Meeting Actions on top 10 Issues	Top 10 Other High Ranking Issues **
Herbicide resistance & weed management (18%)	Existing national initiative on this area. However, potential for 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority. RCSN booklet published - www.rcsn.net.au	Frost (20%)
Non wetting (16%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.	Productivity (14%)
Snails and slugs (14%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.	GM Technology (12%)
Sclerotinia (10%)	Combined with Canola yield limitation discussions at the closed RCSN meeting the next day.	High rainfall varieties (12%)
Rotations (9%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.	Grain marketing (10%)
N and P management (9%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.	Stubble management (10%)
Soil acidity (8%)	Existing national initiative on this area.	Bio security (new pests and diseases) 10%
Canola yield limitations (8%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.	Business management (HR, staffing etc) (7%)
Cereal disease (8%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.	Sodic soils (4%)
Water logging (1%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.	Long range forecasting-climate (3%)

** The top 10 other high ranking issues will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and will be forwarded to the Western Panel for continued visibility as port zone related issues. Additionally, the topic of compaction was identified by the RCSN members and discussed further at the RCSN meeting on 29 July 2015.

Thanks and Further Details. Thank you to all everyone who attended the Open Meeting and contributed to the detailed discussions. For further details on the RCSN, please visit www.rcsn.net.au or contact the RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or via 0447 261 607.