

GRDC RCSN | Esperance Port Zone | RCSN Meeting 16 August 2016

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Meeting for the Esperance Port Zone was held on 16 August 2016 from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm in Scaddan. The venue for the meeting was the Scaddan Golf Club. This closed RCSN meeting followed on from two Open Meetings which were held in Ravensthorpe and Esperance on 25 July 2016. The Open Meetings provided information/ideas that formed part of the closed meeting discussions. This was the second RCSN meeting for 2016.

Presentations at the meeting included: **David Hall (DAFWA)** who provided an update on compaction and current projects for Esperance along with **Danny Sanderson**, Grass Patch farmer and Cascade Scaddan Fire Review member who provided insight into the 2015 fires and progress since that point in the region. In addition to these presentations, **Peter Roberts** (Chair, Western Panel) and **Roger States** (Grower Services Manager, GRDC) also provided a GRDC and RCSN general business update. Presentations provided additional information to assist with meeting discussions.

Those who attended the meeting included: Ben Hyde, Bevan Tuckett, Collin Penny, Craig Brown, Holly Meiklejohn, Leon Bowman, Peter Daw, Phil Smyth, Quenten Knight, Andrew Fowler and Kirk Jeitz along with Julianne Hill (Coordinator) and Gilly Johnson (Project Support). Guests who attended the meeting included: Peter Roberts (Western Panel), Roger States (GRDC), Bill Ryan (Western Panel), Stephanie Meikle (GRDC) and Jack McKie (GRDC).

The current projects funded by the RCSN were also reviewed including projects from 2015-2016 and more recently funded projects from 2016-2017. Please contact the RCSN Coordinator for more information on the current funded projects. A key part of the meeting was the review of all issues from the February 2016 meeting, along with the data collected from the open meetings. The inclusion of the GroupMap tool data meant that members were able to review data more comprehensively in order to consider and then vote on key areas that may be taken forward for RCSN funding in the 1-3 year time frame or that would be forwarded to GRDC for consideration in longer funding period timeframes. From this, members then identified five top areas that they believed are impacting on profitability in their region and identified activities to address these issues, for possible development of project scopes. The top five priority areas and their general discussions included:

Ranked	Issue	Discussion
1	Compaction and CTF	Replicated trial work on a wider range of soil types and widely represented soil types – eg. gravel sand plain and Mallee shallow loam over clay.
2	Legumes	Broadleaf weed management Lupins – effective radish control. Longer term cropping rotations and the effects of legumes over time. Profitable crop and pasture legumes – mixed farming.
3	Late application glyphosate	Focus on feed barley that is widely planted to be representative.
4	Early sowing/long season	Aim is to be able to sow early to achieve greater yield with no quality loss – include all cereals and Canola.
5	Fast and accurate pH testing	Localised case studies of researchers/growers using pH testing to generate a pH map including economic modelling – include machinery.

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked. A full list is available from the RCSN Coordinator. All issues raised at the RCSN meetings will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and have been forwarded to the GRDC Western Panel for continued visibility as port zone related issues that feed into existing or future initiatives.

Connect with Us. GRDC now have a Facebook page – www.facebook.com/theGRDC/ (like us!) as well as a dedicated RCSN website – www.rcsn.net.au. Follow us on Twitter @Julianne_Hill, or visit GRDC www.grdc.com.au.

Further queries? Please call Julianne Hill (GRDC Regional Cropping Solutions Network Coordinator) on 0447 261 607 or email regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com

The next meeting of the RCSN will be a combined meeting with all port zones on 1-2 March 2017.