

GRDC RCSN | Kwinana East Port Zone | RCSN Meeting 22 June 2016

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) Closed Meeting for the Kwinana East Port Zone was held on 22 June 2016 from 8.30 am to 5.00 pm at the Mukinbudin Recreation Centre. This closed RCSN meeting followed on from two Open Meetings which were held in Merredin (21 June 2016) and Bencubbin (21 June 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: **Dr Keith Bristow**, CSIRO Agriculture, Townsville QLD, who spoke on *Water use Efficiency and Polymers*, along with **Dr Greg Rebetzke**, CSIRO Plant Industry, Canberra ACT, who spoke on *Winter droughts; frost versus heat risks*. In addition to the above presentations, Peter Roberts (Chair of the GRDC Western Panel) and Roger States (Grower Services Manager, Western Region, 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: Bob Nixon, Caroline Peek, Cathy Cooke, Clint Della Bosca, Darren Kilminster, David Stead, Matt Steber, Nick Gillett, Scott Dixon, Ty Henning, Glen Brayshaw, Peter Roberts (Chair, Western Panel), Roger States (GRDC), Julia Easton (GRDC), Gemma Walker (Western Panel), Jules Alvaro (Western Panel), Chris Wilkins (Western Panel), Vanessa Stewart (DAFWA), Julianne Hill (Coordinator), Cindy Power (Project Support), and Gilly Johnson (Project Support).

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	Acidity	Identifying/managing subsoil constraints; cost/benefit of amelioration - growers can identify a potential source of lime/or lime alternatives on farm or near farm.
2	Controlled traffic farming	Understanding the financial benefits or otherwise of CTF in the Kwinana East port zone.
3	Soil sodicity	Extension of some of the key learnings from the sodic and magnesian soils project.
4	Matricaria control	Particularly in legume pastures.
5	Continuous cereals	Re-evaluate crop sequencing for agronomic and economic reasoning in a low rainfall environment.

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.