

GRDCs Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) meeting for the Kwinana East Port Zone was held as part of an interstate trip to Canberra, in conjunction with Esperance port zone RCSN members. This was the first RCSN member meeting for 2018.

Meeting attendees included: Bob Nixon, Darren Kilminster, Nick Gillett, Ty Henning, Cathy Cooke, Glen Brayshaw, Gemma Walker & Jules Alvaro (Western Panel), Jo Wheeler, Julianne Hill (Coordinator), Cindy Power, Brooke Heenan and Graham Mussell (Project Support). Apologies were received from Caroline Peek, Clint Della Bosca, Alex Leake, Ty Kirby and Dave Stead.

Kwinana East RCSN members toured a number of facilities on their three days in Canberra including GRDC head office; CSIRO Black Mountain; Parliament House; Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (including ABARES) and heard from key researchers working in RCSN identified high priority areas. They conducted their RCSN meeting on 7 February 2018 at CSIRO Black Mountain. RCSN members stayed at the Kurrajong Hotel for the duration of their stay.

At their RCSN member meeting, RCSN members considered and voted on all ideas that had been gathered from the five growers they liaise with prior to each meeting; as well as any other topical and high priority issues that they had considered since last meeting. The top 10 ranked issues are listed in the table below.

**TABLE 1: Summarised Top 10 areas that Kwinana East port zone RCSN members ranked highly as impacting heavily on growers profitability (those in bold were further developed with MAKATs undertaken).**

ID #	Idea	Area	Further expansion by RCSN members on top issues
<b>KE1</b>	<b>Importance of maintaining glyphosate</b>	<b>Crop protection</b>	<b>Management and education on the use of glyphosate.</b>
KE2	Involvement in the research for Nitrogen fixing crops	Nutrition	Nitrogen fixing canola was presented by CSIRO researchers at Black Mountain during the RCSN visit.
<b>KE3</b>	<b>Work on making canola more resilient break crop for the eastern wheatbelt</b>	<b>Agronomy</b>	<b>Golden rules tool - include is too shallow better than too deep, is too thick better than too thin? To be developed with particular specificity for the Kwinana East port zone</b>
<b>KE4</b>	<b>Work on making canola more resilient break crop for the eastern wheatbelt</b>	<b>Agronomy</b>	<b>Agronomy trial with different inputs according to deciles calculating yield and profit.</b>
<b>KE5</b>	<b>Work on making canola more resilient break crop for the eastern wheatbelt</b>	<b>Agronomy</b>	<b>NVT in Agzone 4 - get canola into the mix as none here currently</b>
KE6	P use efficiency	Nutrition	Discussion on better use of P. Anton project presented at CSIRO Black Mountain; and Al toxicity

ID #	Idea	Area	Further expansion by RCSN members on top issues
KE7	N case studies, comparing liquid v granular, both via seeding and spray, spread application	Nutrition	High impact but not further developed at this time
KE8	Salinity	Agronomy	High impact but not further developed at this time
KE9	Low rainfall environment trial looking at crop vigour	Agronomy	High impact but not further developed at this time
KE10	Machine investment vs repair costs benchmark	Agribusiness	High impact but not further developed at this time
KE11	What paddock technology is able to be used in paddock with current systems?	Other	High impact but not further developed at this time
KE12	Satellite biomass to help in-season management	Agronomy	Looking at the new imaging technology such as planet and seeing if this can be used at farm scale

Other issues were also brought up but were not as highly ranked; however all issues 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 may feed into existing or future initiatives.

**What Next?** All issues considered to be high ranking by the RCSN members will now be further defined; due diligence conducted on each area with regard to research conducted in the past, currently or in development (to avoid replication and to make best use of resources); and those areas which are still considered an issue will be further developed for possible project work. Also, vacancies that exist on the current RCSN have been readvertised with applications closing on 23 April 2018.

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**The next meeting of the RCSN** will be on 8 August 2018 at Bruce Rock (8am-5pm) with accommodation supplied for all RCSN members for the night of 7 August 2018 following Open Forums:

- 6 August 2018 - Beacon (2-6pm)
- 7 August 2018 - Westonia (8-11am)
- 7 August 2018 - Bruce Rock (2-6pm)

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