

GRDC's Kwinana East port zone Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) held two Open Forums in June 2019. The meetings were held at Beacon Country Club (27 June at 8am) and Muntadgin Hotel (27 June at 4pm).

A total of 68 guests attended the two Open Forums. Members of the general public were able to register for the Open Forums at the RCSN website [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au) and could submit an issue/idea should they be unable to attend.

Those presenting across the forums included Craig Brown (Craig Brown Consulting/Synergy) on current knockdown resistance status & trends, testing, non-herbicide options; and topical seasonal weed issues. GRDC staff spoke on GRDC investments; and Western Panel were in attendance with most Kwinana East port zone RCSN members also attending. Online GroupMap technology was used to capture audience input. A key part of the Open Forum was the opportunity for participants to share the top issues affecting their profitability. 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 GRDC's RCSN and by GRDC's Western Panel and GRDC staff.

A number of shorter term, smaller RCSN initiated projects have been put on the ground in the Kwinana East port zone since 2011. Final reports are available online at the Online Farm Trials website, [www.farmtrials.com.au](http://www.farmtrials.com.au) or on [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au).

All issues raised at the Open Forums at Beacon and Muntadgin were discussed by the RCSN members at their meeting held on 28th June in Merredin. The RCSN also added further issues after gaps were identified. All issues were ranked according to five main factors: Does it impact on grower's profitability? What area is affected by the issue? How frequently does the issue occur? If work was conducted on the issue, would it deliver more value to growers? Is the issue something that we can effect change upon?

**Table 1: Summary of areas of interest raised at the Open Forums at Beacon (BC) & Muntadgin (MT); or by RCSN members**

Areas of interest raised at Kwinana East port zone Open Forums and RCSN members	Expanded areas of interest from Open Forums and RCSN members	RCSN member feedback from RCSN member meeting and further action
MT - Long term staff requirements, lack of skilled labour, traineeships	Elephant in the room for Ag in general. We can't go forward with backpacker labour alone. 3rd most limiting constraint after land and rain	The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
<i>BC, RCSN - Biological integrity of soil. Chemical accumulation ie Imi chemicals etc (Soil Nutrition)</i>	<i>Managing nutrition in EWB after big production yields. Tips from specialists. Soil fertility &amp; water use efficiency. How to build Organic Carbon %. Nutritional strategies for Water Use Efficiency WUE. Biological integrity of soil. Chemical accumulation ie imi chemicals etc, Development of an available potassium test to help gauge soluble K levels to help with potassium budgeting over time.</i>	<i>Ranked highly by RCSN members at their member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue impacting on profitability and further developed some aspects of this issue.</i>
BC - Machinery investment, fuel costs, costs seems to growing.	Bigger programs wear out machines more quickly. Need to understand the unit costs? Also economics around running multiple units vs one. Revisit own vs contract vs hire. Multiple units or own + contract	The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current GRDC investment in this area
Crown rot management	How, cost, more seasonal than stacked rotations. Solutions from a profitability point and ongoing cropping. Fungicide- is it an issue, economical for area, cost effective.	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current GRDC investment occurring in this space
With-holding periods for chemicals after a dry start for the following year	What residual effects will there be for the following year crop. Chemical Fallow - how to and opportunity cost Vs pasture fallow cost/benefits & agronomy benefits	Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
MRLs and spray management	Fact finder for impact of key export market MRL's on barley agronomy management in 2019 and beyond.	The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this

Areas of interest raised at Kwinana East port zone Open Forums and RCSN members	Expanded areas of interest from Open Forums and RCSN members	RCSN member feedback from RCSN member meeting and further action
	We know there is a potential issue but there is a very fractured response by industry. Collaboration with AEGIC/merchants/GIWA/GTA?? Spraying weather conditions with focus on drift inversions improvement to spray indicators (DELTA T) for the Eastern Wheatbelt of W.A.	issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
BC, RCSN - Grass weed management	Staggered germination of barley grass leading to huge pressures in crop. The issues with post applications of Imi's on crops, what are our control methods going forward? Early seeding with no knockdowns for 3 years, high rates of pre-em herbicides have been used to extend residual control on grass weeds which have consequently resulted in germination issues such as silly seed. Imi resistance in Brome and Barley grass, how do we 'break it'. Grass control and being cost effective - barley, brome. New chemistry for late germinating ryegrass in cereals	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
BC - Stored grain management and phosphine resistance issues	Place of on farm grain storage and phosphine resistance	Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
Seed destructor/terminator mills	Are they effective when they are worn? Longevity of associated products. Maintenance costs. What are the economics of seed destructors/terminators in terms of reduce harvest capacity, fuel, repairs, maintenance and depreciation per hectare	Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
<i>BC, MT, RCSN - Pulses, rotations, profitable legumes/breaks</i>	<i>Summer/Autumn fodder solutions for feed gap. Establishment strategies for summer grazing crops such as Sorghum? Other options? Research into new pulses, varied soil types, bottom line being key issue. Better options for rotation to equate to profit. Frost management strategies for Beacon area, New information to add to old work? Re-extension of Ben Biddulph's work. New research possibilities in terms of rotation mix and short term factors. Lack of flexibility and diversity on certain soils. Acid soils, heavy soils.</i>	<i>Ranked highly by RCSN members at their member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue impacting on profitability and further developed some aspects of this issue.</i>
<i>MT, RCSN - Seeding gear set-up including strip and disc</i>	<i>Seeding bar setup, updated for new seeding systems - Do's and Dont's. Efficient methods to measure performance Disk vs tynes, Economics viability and pathway. A guide to the strip and disc system, and rotations to make a success of the system. Chem etc</i>	<i>Ranked highly by RCSN members at their member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue impacting on profitability and further developed some aspects of this issue.</i>
Improve on farm connectivity to facilitate communication needs.	Expanding the 'Crisp' wireless network for more affordable highspeed internet? What's the opportunity cost of missing out on cutting edge technology by not having proper coverage across the farm?	Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
BC – Oats agronomy	Need more herbicide options for barley grass, wild oats, cape weed and radish.	Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The

Areas of interest raised at Kwinana East port zone Open Forums and RCSN members	Expanded areas of interest from Open Forums and RCSN members	RCSN member feedback from RCSN member meeting and further action
		RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
BC - Development of rhizobia for pasture legumes in low rainfall zones	Rhizobia for Acidic soils and Med climate eg heat	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time.
Annual weed resistance testing	Known populations to watch genetic change over time, more relevant and recent testing based on what Mechelle Owen started with AHRI	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time.
Support of grower groups	To offer independent and timely 'pop-up' field days for specific issues or at specific times of the growing season. Examples: managing dry sown paddocks with poor knockdown efficacy; post-em N timings; bugs/fungicide issues	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time.
MT - Lack of agricultural education to the youth in the metro - social media, determining fact from fiction		Ranked highly by RCSN members at their RCSN member meeting. The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time. However, the RCSN wanted to ensure that it continued to have presence within GRDC
RCSN, MT - Economic management of ameliorated soils	Increasing interest in gypsum on heavier soil types. Do we need to revisit previous work? Has anything changed? Is there new trials to look at the combination of lime + gypsum + incorporation to manage red soils. Is this the equivalent of managing hard pan in sands? Tactics, techniques to better establish Canola on deep ripped sand. Mitigating soil compaction and strength-improving soil structure. Build a better understanding why	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
BC - Herbicide/fungicide resistance	Early spot form net blotch already present. Concerns over treatment costs. fungicide rotation to avoid resistance and new actives in market making space confusing. Crown rot increasing as an issue. Strategies for early spot form net blotch and fit into spraying program in next few weeks. Old generic chemistry vs new chemistry, cost and effectiveness in low rainfall low yielding environment. Ie propiconazole multiple applications vs strobi mixes. Resistance management an issue, but is it our responsibility for low rainfall to worry about this 'social problem'	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
Wild radish management	After dry start having to using expensive chemicals to control weeds especially radish	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
Is TOS a waste of time? Need date and percentage of emergence, plus squirt trails	What happens to TOS NVT in a dry year?	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. The

Areas of interest raised at Kwinana East port zone Open Forums and RCSN members	Expanded areas of interest from Open Forums and RCSN members	RCSN member feedback from RCSN member meeting and further action
		WA NVT manager has been included in this issue
Lime and on-farm sources	Research for on farm lime sources. With all the attention the different lime NV tests have had, which is the correct one and going forward, what will be industry standard considering new on farm lime sources., Various lime sources combined with dolomite/gypsum etc - cost on farm & yield response. Quality of on farm lime in the wheatbelt	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current GRDC investment occurring in this space as well as RCSN initiated projects
BC – Hard to kill weeds	Matricaria in pasture, double gees, windmill grass, stattice and brome in crops as well. Easy enough in crop. Pasture uses paraquat, sets back the medic.	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current GRDC investment occurring in part of this space around summer weed early identification and control
MT - Green on green tech	Playing around with a green on green mechanical in crop solutions as a non chemical strategy, Green on Green technology. Is it the next step in weed control (especially Resistance)? If so how effective will it be?	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
MT - cereals. Grazing options.	Short and long season varieties. Opening the window.	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There has been GRDC investment in this space with Grain and Graze 1, 2 and 3
BC, MT, RCSN - Breeding for a range of issues including acidity, salinity, high protein, diseases such as net blotch	Salinity. It's still a big issue and it's still and expanding issue. What are the current options being developed and what can be developed? Grain breeders to produce high yielding, high protein varieties. Breeding having more focus of things like net blotch vs just yield. Better variety than Harper, Yitpi, decent long season long season wheat and spreading frost risk. April sown, Barley... too many varieties. What do consumers/buyers really want. Management of acid soils. Improving pH cost affectively. Varieties (acid tolerate) or crop types. mitigating low ph. Lack of heat tolerance in canola (long and short season)	Noted as an issue by RCSN members at their member meeting, however the RCSN did not further develop this issue at this time. There is current large GRDC investment occurring in this space
BC - Maintaining communities with the scale of farming.		The RCSN identified this as an issue but did not further develop this issue at this time.

**NB: ALL issues raised at the Open Forums as notes above will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and will be forwarded to the GRDC Western Panel and GRDC for continued visibility that may feed into existing or future initiatives.**

**Thanks and Further Details.**

GRDC now have a Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/theGRDC/](http://www.facebook.com/theGRDC/) (like us!) as well as a dedicated RCSN website – [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au). Follow us on Twitter @Julianne\_Hill, or visit GRDC [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au). Thank you to everyone who attended the Open Forums and contributed to the detailed discussions. For further details, contact the RCSN Facilitator Julianne Hill on 0447 261 607 or email [regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com)