

CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY... *Made Easy!*



Workshops provide strong start to CoR campaign

South Australian primary producers are better equipped to understand and deal with changes to their roles, responsibilities and rights within the Chain of Responsibility framework following the successful rollout of a workshop series.

The Chain of Responsibility... Made Easy! campaign was designed and implemented by Grain Producers SA in conjunction with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, Natwide, National Farmers Federation and Primary Producers SA in response to changes made to CoR laws in October 2018.

The changes mean that all parties in the chain must reduce risks related to the safety of heavy vehicle tasks, including primary producers who transport their own produce and/or use carriers to do so.

More than 500 people attended the 26 workshops, which ran from 22 January to 1 May, gaining valuable insight, resources and discussion. Attendees were involved in a wide range of primary production practices, including broadacre cropping, livestock loading, horticulture, viticulture, dairy, hay carting and general receipt of goods.

Participating producers were given tailored information, advice and resources from industry experts Natwide, with principal workshop presenter Peter Sharp drawing on his wide-ranging experience in the transport, law and regulation sectors to advise producers on their obligations under specific circumstances.

GPSA Policy Officer Shane Gale says the program received a positive response from attendees, with many heavy vehicle usage myths dispelled and CoR questions answered.

"In response to our member requests for help we chose to work with the regulator and the state's primary producers to better understand obligations and requirements under CoR law, while also promoting safe conduct and good record keeping," he said.

"CoR compliance is all about protecting yourself, the people you work with and your business.

Mr Gale is confident the workshops, coupled with the follow-up resources and ongoing support offered by Natwide, will help producers understand their responsibilities under CoR and assist them in implementing checklists, policies and procedures to reduce risks to their business.

Members of PPSA's commodity groups who attended the workshops, including Grain Producers SA, Livestock SA, Wine Grape Council of SA, Horticulture Coalition of SA and SA Dairyfarmers' Association, have received access to Natwide's online resource portal for 12 months and will also have phone and email support.



THE CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY... *Made Easy!* This program has been made possible by support from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator Heavy Vehicle Safety Initiative Program.





Background

Chain of Responsibility laws aim to improve road safety by reducing transport risks within the heavy vehicle sector and associated industries, including primary production.

Those within the chain, whether they are a consignee or loader are expected to eliminate or minimise potential risks by doing all that is reasonably practicable to ensure safety.

For primary producers employing a driver this can include implementing checklists, policies and procedures to ensure vehicles are roadworthy, drivers are appropriately licenced, produce can be safely loaded or unloaded and much more.

The tasks within the CoR framework have been sorted into five categories – Mass and Dimension, Loading and Load Restraint, Fatigue Management, Speed Management and Vehicle Standards and Maintenance.

CoR legislation had been making the headlines for all the wrong reasons in late 2017 and early 2018, with farmers expressing their frustration about legislation grey areas and 'draconian' legal changes.

GPSA responded swiftly by establishing what farmers knew about the CoR framework during a series of meetings about safety policy, safety management systems and codes of practice in March 2018.

When amendments to CoR legislation were passed in October 2018, it was decided that the main knowledge gaps should be addressed by holding free workshops for primary producers and providing them with ongoing support and materials to reduce the risks to their businesses.



"An excellent workshop. Great presenters, easily understood and excellent tools to assist implementation of CoR."

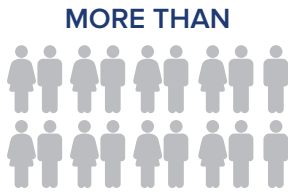
"I've been to 3 presentations on CoR and this was by far the best explaining of our responsibility."

"Very well presented in farmer friendly terminology."

"Fantastic content, very helpful, will be making some changes straight away."

"A great presentation that simplifies CoR, backed up with great resources."

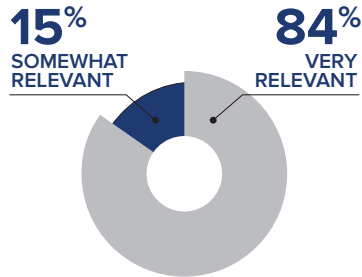
In Numbers



500

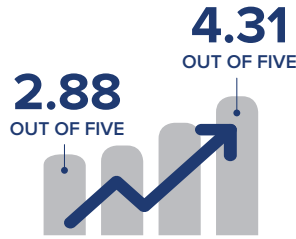
PRIMARY PRODUCERS
IN ATTENDANCE

HOW RELEVANT WAS THE INFORMATION RECEIVED IN RELATION TO YOUR INDUSTRY AND THE PRODUCE YOU TRANSPORT?



WORKSHOP RATINGS:

OVERALL PROGRAM	8.77
VENUE	8.92
SPEAKERS	9.16
CATERING	8.64
REGISTRATION PROCESS	8.73
KNOWLEDGE PROVIDED	9.09
ORGANISATION OF THE DAY	9.05
VARIETY	8.91
WORKSHOP HANDOUT	8.72

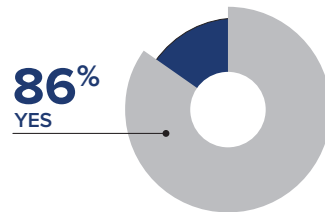


ATTENDEES UNDERSTANDING OF CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY LEGISLATION AND THEIR ROLE WITHIN THE CHAIN – BEFORE AND AFTER WORKSHOPS

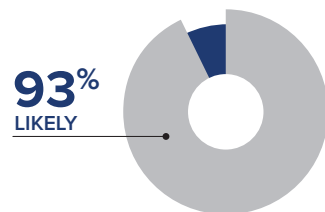
WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS WORKSHOP TO OTHER PRIMARY PRODUCERS SEEKING TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THEIR CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS?



DO YOU PLAN TO MAKE CHANGES TO YOUR BUSINESS AS A RESULT OF THIS EVENT?



HOW LIKELY ARE YOU TO USE THE FOLLOW-UP MATERIALS (CHECKLISTS AND TEMPLATES), AND SUPPORT PROVIDED BY NATWIDE?



Impact



“We’ll implement policy and CoR template document to sub-contractors.”



“We’ll put more records and procedures in place.”



“Will write up policy and checklist, will add information to my procedure manual.”



“We will add some documentation to our system e.g. daily checklists and written detail of any maintenance as opposed to only workshop invoices.”



“We’ll check the website and download forms to comply. We’ll share that information with the rest of the partners in our business.”



“We’ll use website documents to create a company CoR policy and will email the carrier management checklist to our contract transport providers.”

CoR program complements existing practices

With a prime mover, two farm-to-farm registered trucks and trucks frequently delivering chemicals and fuel onto the property, Lochiel's Nick Ottens knows the importance to the family farming business of keeping up to date with transport regulations.

The business, a cropping and cattle operation on 1600 hectares in South Australia's Mid North, carts its own grain, livestock and fertiliser, with suppliers of fuel and chemicals making deliveries.

Nick attended a Chain of Responsibility workshop at Maitland and plans on browsing the Natwide online resource portal in the lead-up to harvest to see if any checklists or documents can be utilised in their day-to-day operations.

"We have an employee who drives trucks for us at harvest time so we'll keep thinking of ways to help him abide by the rules in place," he said.

"We've instructed him how to load the truck to be legal and we've got a camera in the back so we're going to paint a line around the inside of the tub, allowing us to watch as it's being loaded with grain."

"There's a few things like that we're going to do which will make it easier for the driver to know that he's legal."

Nick was reasonably well-versed in Chain of Responsibility and their obligations as a farming business prior to the workshop, but says he was impressed by the content and the discussion of different topics.

"The program is a really good initiative and a great opportunity for grain growers to ask the questions they may not have heard the answers to," he said.

"The presenters were very well versed in the information they had and were great at passing that information on.

"Little tips like using the camera on your phone to document things were helpful because we all have access to that technology."

The workshop confirmed the value of record keeping practices Nick has previously implemented.

With information on CoR obligations plus checklists and templates available to help farmers be compliant, Nick says it's just a matter of farming businesses planning how to use those materials and advice to suit them and their particular circumstances.



Workshop helps to quell CoR concerns

Prior to attending a Chain of Responsibility... Made Easy! Workshop at Kingston-on-Murray, Glenda Hall concedes her family's knowledge of CoR legislation and their obligations as farmers within the chain was quite limited.

With husband Andrew, the Halls are cereal croppers and run beef cattle on about 5600 hectares at Maggea, SA.

They contract carriers to transport their grain, conduct some on-farm transport in their own truck and get fertiliser delivered to their property.

Glenda says there were many myths dispelled at the workshop and it was helpful to be able to discuss the ins and outs of CoR with expert speakers in a session tailored to the common transport situations faced by primary producers.

"The session definitely helped with our understanding and it also made us realise there wasn't as much paperwork involved in the process as we first thought, which was a relief," she says.

Glenda says the family intend to implement some changes to ensure their record keeping is up to date in the unlikely event of a problem.

She says they will also endeavour to stay informed of any changes to laws and obligations concerning transport tasks.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grain Producers SA and Primary Producers SA would like to thank the project partners and venue sponsors who made this project possible:



VENUE SPONSORS:

