

PGA is back and ready to fight



□ Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA president, Tony Seabrook, said his organisation is now focused on providing the best advocacy for the industry it represents.

By **PERRI POLSON**



WITH some new faces, a business restructure and plenty of government and industry issues to contend with, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association of WA (PGA) board is moving forward and advocating for its members on many fronts.

Senior consultant, Jeff Claughton, has been employed to assist in 're-tuning' the PGA business and office structures.

This follows an investigation into financial

irregularities within the organisation.

At the end of January, RSM Australia partners Jerome Mohen and Greg Dudley, were appointed as joint and several voluntary administrators of the PGA.

In early March, at a creditors' meeting, a path was decided for PGA to clear debts with creditors and exit voluntary administration.

PGA president, Tony Seabrook, said the organisation was focusing on its members and providing the best advocacy for the industry it represents.

High on the priority list is the tumultuous and complicated firearms

legislation, and the issues which have branched from it, such as the ability for land managers to control feral pests especially on pastoral leases.

"The government doesn't seem to recognise the role played by pastoralists in the control of very destructive introduced animals," Mr Seabrook said.

"They fill the role of very careful land managers.

"You need these people to fulfil the role that the government is clearly not able to – that is care for the rangelands."

A number of issues that have been firmly on PGA's agenda for years are still in focus, including better pastoral leases, Aboriginal cultural

heritage, and the constraints that surround land tenure and water legislation.

One issue the PGA is working on within the pastoral industry is the automatic right of renewal as leases expire.

Earlier this year, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage opened consultation on pastoral leases under the Land Administration Act 1997, with new regulations due to be announced later this year.

Currently, a pastoral lease is not automatically renewed when it expires.

"(Automatic renewal) is absolutely critical if

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GRAIN (\$t)	FIS Kwi Prices	Previous Week
2025/26 Season Pricing		
Wheat (APW1)	361	368
Wheat (AWW1)	325	330
Canola (CAN1)	839	860
Canola (CAG1)	765	780
Barley (BFED1)	336	334

See Farm Weekly:
(Section 2) Pages 29-31

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WOOL (c/kg)	This Sale	Last Sale
18 m	1578	1552
18.5 m	1545	1514
19 m	1507	1487
19.5 m	1473	1452
20 m	1467	1448
21 m	1450	1430

AWEX eastern indicator c/kg: 1239
AWEX western indicator c/kg: 1373

CATTLE (c/kg liveweight)		
Vealer beef (steers) c/kg:	400	400
Yearling beef (steers) c/kg:	348	348
Cow beef c/kg:	310	310

SHEEP (\$/head)		
Heavy lambs (c/kg):	304	330
Heavy (26kg cwt) mutton (c/kg):	248	248
Wethers (26kg cwt) (c/kg):	200	250

AUS \$ (USc) 64.64

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leaseholders are to have access to loans to develop their properties," Mr Seabrook said.

"Where this becomes very critical is that, as there is a move away from old-style pastoralism into a much more capital-intensive form of operation, for example with irrigation, secure tenure is imperative.

"No bank is going to lend a business money to invest if there is not some sort of long-term security there."

Mr Seabrook said PGA was the only organisation protecting the interests of pastoralists and farmers in the face of government indifference.

"There's never been a greater time when pastoralists need to be protected from what the government might do to them," he said.

"There are a vast number of things that will crop up that will impinge on a farmers' and pastoralists' ability to generate a profit, and the cost squeeze and the never-ending regulation that comes through, makes it even harder to do what they do.

"We need to be at the forefront of nipping as many of the things that cost us money in the bud."

Over the past 12 months, PGA had made two requests to meet with Premier Roger Cook.

Since Labor came into government, the PGA has had one meeting with former Premier Mark McGowan.

"It might be expected that as the industry that feeds all Australians, the Premier should be asking to meet with us on a regular basis," Mr Seabrook said.

Just recently, PGA met with Police Minister Reece Whitby about the firearms legislation, and Attorney General Tony Buti, about cultural heritage.

Vice president, Digby Stretch said the PGA was lobbying the government to pause the firearms legislation transition in order to iron out significant issues with the Firearms Portal.

He encouraged the Labor government to utilise the knowledge of firearms held by farmers and shooters in the regions to help inform the next steps of the legislation transition, and to find middle-ground.

One of the key problems was that while licences were expiring, the Firearms Portal system was experiencing overwhelm and delays.

At the same time, farmers and shooters who want to stay compliant, still have work to do.

"People are going to be putting their



The government doesn't seem to recognise the role played by pastoralists in the control of very destructive introduced animals.

- Tony Seabrook

neck on the line so business can go on as usual," Mr Stretch said.

Mr Seabrook said he attempted to use the portal recently and found it tedious, time-consuming and very difficult to navigate

"I would say to the minister, come up to York, sit down in my office and fill it out with me," he said.

"He might then understand why law-abiding citizens are angry and frustrated."

Mr Stretch said he was motivated to advocate for the industry, and policy wins from previous years provided sustained satisfaction.

"We'll be part of legislative reviews, we'll be trying to have the ears of the ministers whenever we can, and opening all the doors that we can," he said.

"It's hard to get this government to listen to us because we don't deliver them any votes.

"But once you are elected to govern, you are elected to govern for the State."

Mr Seabrook couldn't confirm details on this year's PGA conference at present, but said the organisation was working well and gathering momentum.

"There's a whole lot of industry matters that need dealing with, and we've got a great crew to do the work," he said.

"We're as good as our members want us to be.

"We'll put extra staff in the building if we can get support from our members and the broader industry, because there is so much that needs to be tended to."