



Industry groups to have say on review

SACOME, GPSA preparing submissions

BY QUINTON MCCALLUM

INADEQUACIES in rules concerning land access and compensation will be among the topics addressed by Grain Producers SA when it makes a submission to the state review of the *Mining Act 1971*.

The industry advocate organisation, in consultation with Department of State Development, held consultations for producers during the past month and chief executive officer Darren Arney said many issues were raised with the present act.

"The *Mining Act 1971* really doesn't provide a lot of rights to the landowner," he said.

"We've had four meetings across the state and we've got a policy of giving farmers a right to veto (proposed) mining operations and it's understandable given the

issues raised by landholders.

"It's understandable farmers would want a right of veto because their position's quite weak at the moment."

Mr Arney said farming had changed significantly since the last review of the act, meaning some aspects concerning exempt land, such as cropping land,

were outdated.

"Farming is a 12-month operation, so the rules concerning access and compensation are inadequate," he said.

"There's also concerns about compliance."

Mr Arney said suggestions stemming from consultation sessions included the establishment of an information service or mining ombudsman so farmers had a place to receive advice when a disagreement occurred.

"Some have suggested there should be a one-stop shop where farmers can go, that might be within PPSA or within the ombudsman office, so they can ask 'I've just been served a notice of entry - what are my rights?'"

Mr Arney also said royalties paid to the government should also flow back to the communities where a mine was located.

GPSA is finalising its submission and is still calling for an independent review. The closing date for submissions is tomorrow (Friday), unless an extension has been granted.

SA Chamber of Mines and Energy chief executive

officer Rebecca Knol said the mining act review was a great opportunity to review a critical piece of legislation.

"There's always room for improvement," she said.

"We'll be making a submission as an industry body on behalf of our members.

"At the end of the day, what you're looking to get out of the review is a streamlined process that meets the need of different sectors and different people within the sectors. That's why it's fantastic graingrowers were given an extension given the long harvest."

Ms Knol said it was important that both the mining and agriculture sectors were given a lengthy time frame to respond to the review.

She said SACOME was doing what it could to ensure a collaborative approach with the ag sector.

"There'll always be points of difference but I think there's also many areas where we can collaborate and move forward as two sectors," she said.

"Our primary needs are very similar and the financial health of this state is dependent upon both industries."



PROBLEM AREAS: Grain Producers SA chief executive officer Darren Arney says compensation and land access procedures are problem areas in the present mining act.