

Title Ag Excellence Alliance Report

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The Ag Excellence Alliance is currently funded until July 2008 through the
National Landcare Program Community Support Program.**

Ag Excellence Alliance Vision:

To increase the viability of group members through providing leadership and effective linkages between SA production groups, NRM and key stakeholders.

Ag Excellence Alliance Objectives

- To build the strength and sustainability of groups and industry.
- To add value to grower groups through co-ordination and support.
- To encourage integration of natural resource management with production.
- To influence key stakeholders to better address industry issues.

Key Outcomes in 2007

- Greater interaction between NRM Regional Boards and Production Groups, dates set for facilitated meetings between NRM Boards and Production Groups.
- Presentations to the State NRM Council, NHT Facilitators Forum and State Meeting of regional NRM Presiding Members and Chief Officers.
- Coordination and promotion of “Managing Difficult Times Workshops” across SA with Beyond Blue and Country Health SA.
- Support for specific activities to deliver quality information to young growers.
- Development and circulation of Ag Ex E-Newsletter.
- Assistance with identifying Group contributions to the SA State plan target of reducing the number of erosion prone days.
- New collaborative joint projects established to meet grower needs and access new opportunities.
- SA coordination of Mastering Climate Change activities with Birchip Cropping Group.
- Establishment of the SA Grower Group Awards.
- Improved collaboration and sharing of information between regions.
- Increased grower and advisor involvement in state wide activities.
- Increased Grower Group interaction with NLP & NHT personnel.
- Support for involvement of expertise in regional events.
- Ongoing monthly Ag Ex Grower page published in the Stockjournal.
- Organisation of collaborative meeting between medium and high rainfall groups.
- Building interest and involvement in Ag Ex objectives and project activities.
- Development of Ag Ex Strategic Plan and improving operating procedures.
- Ag Ex Representation at SA Group Field Days and discussion of regional issues.

Interest in Ag Ex Alliance activities have continued to build during 2007 / 08.

Contact has been made with all NRM groups involved in the broad acre agricultural region to facilitate interaction between NRM Boards and Grower Groups.

Presentations have been made to the State NRM Council and the state meeting of regional NRM Presiding Members and chief officers

In 2007 Ag Ex assisted in offsetting the cost of Hart representatives travelling to WA and meeting with WA researchers and grower groups. Hart members returned with new ideas and enthusiasm after visiting WA. Ag Ex also provided support for SPAA, PING Mid North High Rainfall Zone and SANTFA activities, with support also going to the YP Updates run jointly by YP Ag Bureaus and YP ASG.

Joint collaboration on project development and delivery has led to increased opportunities and a rapid increase in knowledge due to efficient and widespread delivery of project outcomes. Many thanks to all involved for their enthusiasm and support.

The monthly Ag Ex Grower page in the Stockjournal has been valuable in assisting groups to deliver their message to a wider audience and assisting key group members with improving their communication skills.

The 2007 Ag Ex Forum was very successful and provided representatives with fresh ideas and an increased understanding of the issues faced and activities conducted by like minded groups.

The Ag Ex Alliance took on the task of organising a joint shared marquee at the YP Machinery Field Days which was a great success and provided a welcomed opportunity for group representatives to share experience and ideas.

Ag Ex has assisted with increasing the involvement of NLP and NHT with grower groups. Brian Hughes and Simon Goodhand have assisted with achieving project aims and also improved group understanding of NLP funding opportunities.

Grower groups continue to impress with the quality of work and the benefits delivered to our industry, environment and community. These groups are to be commended on their efforts, achievements and effective use of available resources.

Ag Excellence Alliance funding is currently available to groups for; exchange visits, decision support workshops, expertise for regional events, collaboration between groups, partner and young grower training.

I would like to thank the Ag Ex Management members Jeanette Long (chair), Mick Faulkner, Geoff Thomas, Peter Cousins, Rick Llewellyn, Ken Solly, Mark Habner, Mark Stanley, Sharon Honner and project support staff Leanne Milhano and Lorraine Rice, NLP staff and the many people who have provided assistance during 2007.