



Govt 'must act' on committee recommendation

INDEPENDENT Member for Frome Geoff Brock used the GPSA annual general meeting last week to voice his disappointment at what he says is a lack of action by the State Government on the recommendations handed down by the Select Committee on Grain Handling, of which he was chairman.

The committee was set up after the massive 2010 harvest, and the ensuing issues with grain deliveries.

It contained members of both sides of politics – Liberal's Adrian Pederick and Tim Whetstone, and Labor MPs Leon Bignell and Tony Piccolo, and Mr Brock.

The committee ran by 18 months, and included a trip to Canada to meet with Viterra representatives.

Mr Brock estimated that the select committee would have cost the government in the region of \$60,000 to \$70,000.

The final report handed down

by the committee contained a raft of suggestions, including many that had been echoed by GPSA.

"Our suggestion is that stocks information needs to be made available to all marketers at the same time," he said.

The committee also suggested that there should be a meeting between grower representatives, local government and industry at the start of the season to look

at potential issues, including transport routes.

"Not having consistency on the roads not only adds a cost to producers, it poses a safety issue on our roads," Mr Brock said.

Another suggestion was working in conjunction with the Western Australia research facility, the Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre, to promote the quality of Australia's product overseas.

The committee also suggested one of SA's ports should be

divested, to ensure competition, rather than a monopoly holding.

"Everybody should have equal access to the ports," Mr Brock said.

"I think the present auction system is going to add more cost to grain going out of SA."

Another suggestion was that the SA government would establish a standing committee on primary industries.

The committee has now been disbanded.

"Very little has been done from the government's end on the recommendations in the report," Mr Brock said.

"At the moment, we don't see anything being changed by it.

"I'd suggest we need a round table conference sometime in the near future, to get together all sectors of primary industries, to ensure a vibrant and efficient industry."