



Media Release

23 December 2024

The Grower Group Alliance announces new Chair and Vice Chair

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Erin Gorter as its new Board Chair and Marie Fowler as Vice Chair, from 10 December 2024.

Erin Gorter replaces Peter Roberts, who has served as Chair for the last five years, and will continue his valued work with the GGA, as an Independent Director on the Board.

The leadership change is part of the Board's ongoing succession management strategy, aimed at ensuring the continued renewal and effectiveness of GGA, to collaborate within the Australian agriculture ecosystem for stronger connections between Western Australian grower groups, researchers, funding bodies and industry.

Erin has served as an independent appointed Director, and Vice Chair of the GGA Board since December 2018. Erin is a respected rural industry consultant with a wealth of experience in agricultural leadership and is deeply engaged with various organisations and committees. Her extensive background includes roles as the former Executive Officer of Evergreen Farming and Southern Dirt, where she developed strong relationships with grower groups and contributed to advancing agricultural practices.

The Board is confident that Erin's experience, leadership, and vision will build GGA's momentum and strategic goals.

Outgoing Chair Peter Roberts said the appointment of Erin Gorter as Chair is a crucial step in ensuring the ongoing success of GGA, as she will help guide the GGA through its next phase of growth.

"With her extensive experience and commitment to the agriculture sector, we are confident Erin will continue to lead GGA towards achieving its mission of supporting and empowering grower groups," he said.

"It is wonderful both Erin and Marie have accepted these appointments. Please join me in congratulating them both."

Marie Fowler was elected to the GGA Board as a Member Director in September 2023. Marie farms east of Esperance, producing grain, beef, lamb, and has served on numerous

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councils and committees, including the South East Premium Wheat growers Association [SEPWA].

Marie brings a wealth of grower knowledge and industry experience to the role of Vice Chair and the Board welcomes her to the role.

Outgoing Chair, Peter Roberts, a former farmer from Dunn Rock, was appointed as a GGA Independent Director in September 2018, and served as GGA Chair from September 2020 – 10 December 2024.

Newly appointed GGA Chair Erin Gorter noted that “under Peter’s leadership, GGA has made significant progress in delivering on its strategic plan and advancing key initiatives in collaboration with DPIRD”.

“The Board recognises Peter's leadership, dedication, and invaluable contributions throughout his tenure, and I thank him for his ongoing contributions to GGA, grower groups and to the industry.”

GGA extends its heartfelt thanks to Peter Roberts, for his exceptional leadership and looks forward to his continued involvement in shaping the future of GGA alongside Erin and Marie, and the existing Board Members: Independent Director (Appointed) Graham Smith and Member Directors (elected) Audrey Bird, Chris Wyhoon, Nick Eyres and (vacancy appointed Director) Peter Callaghan.

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About Grower Group Alliance (GGA):

The Grower Group Alliance (GGA) is a not-for-profit group, established in 2002 to develop the capacity of groups and stronger connections between Western Australian grower groups, researchers, funding bodies and industry.

Today the GGA is a thriving state-wide network of over 90 member groups from across Western Australia, with a collective membership exceeding 4,000 farm enterprises.

www.gga.org.au/gga-news/media-releases/

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