

Dear member,

RE: Letter from GGA Chair Erin Gorter regarding Special General Meeting Notice.

The Board of GGA is calling a Special General Meeting (SGM), scheduled for Friday 21 March 2025.

I'm writing to share some important information with you about this meeting to ensure you, as a valued member, are aware of the Board's reasoning for the Motion, which includes amendments to GGA's Constitution or "Rules" and to invite you to attend and cast your Vote at the SGM.

The purpose of these amendments is to enable GGA to transition from a Not-For-Profit (NFP) organisation (under the Resource Development category) to a NFP with Charitable Purposes.

This proposed next step in the GGA journey is essential for us to continue supporting you the grower group community, growers, and the broader community.

Since 2023 GGA has sought to review and up-lift its current Rules to ensure good governance and provide stronger alignment between GGA's purpose, objects, and long-term direction, while ensuring you and the grower group community are still at the very core of everything we do and stand for. I think you will agree that all members of the GGA Board have grower groups at the very heart of their deliberations and actions.

We understand that communication about prior proposed amendments to the GGA Rules ahead of last year's AGM may not have been as clear as it could have been. We have therefore spent a great deal of time revisiting this to ensure we communicate more effectively regarding what we believe is the best option for the Alliance now and into the future.

We have also been offering groups multiple sessions with constitutional and legal experts on constitutional improvement and why it's so important for our industry and NFP's to review their constitutions, as good governance is paramount to everything we do.

As many of you may already be aware, the ATO has recently introduced new self-assessment obligations for non-charitable NFP organisations with active Australian Business Numbers (ABNs). After seeking legal advice on this matter, it has become clear that there is a high-risk that GGA may lose its Income Tax Exempt (ITE) status and has been recommended that we amend our out-dated Rules and register with the Australian Charities and NFP Commission (ACNC).

After four months of careful consultation with legal and financial experts, the GGA Board has been working to firm deadline, set by the ATO, to critically review our Rules to ensure we align with the ATO's requirements and ensure GGA can continue to operate as we have, benefiting the grower group community and wider industry.

A key part of the proposed amendments is to update GGA's Objects, which will better reflect our purpose. The revised wording for our Objects is as follows:

"The objects of the Alliance are to promote the development and improvement of agriculture for growers, the grower group community, and the broader community in Australia."

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This is one of the amendments within the proposed Rules, please refer to the *SGM Notice* to review the other items that have been drafted by legal experts to ensure we up-lift our governance.

This transition is not about changing GGA's core mission – to serve and support you – but is about strengthening and clarifying our role in the agricultural industry. We believe this is a step forward and will ensure GGA continues in alignment with our values, while maximising the impact of every dollar we raise and ensuring we remain tax-exempt. Without a tax exemption, a portion of any surplus will go to government revenue, instead of benefitting our network and industry. Every cent paid in income tax is taken from programs that drive real change – we can't afford to lose that impact. We need to make sure our revenue continues to go to supporting you and other member groups for the betterment of agriculture in WA.

I would like to express my personal gratitude for your ongoing support as we navigate this transition. The upcoming SGM will provide an opportunity to further discuss the Motion and proposed amendments, and we encourage you to attend. Myself and other members of the GGA Board will also be reaching out directly via phone in the coming weeks to answer any questions you may have and discuss the proposed amendments in more detail.

Additionally, we are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Tylich from Jackson McDonald Legal will be available to answer any questions via a webinar on 6 March, for the *Constitutional Governance, a legal perspective* series on the ATO's new requirements and what it means for GGA. We hope this will provide you an opportunity to seek further clarity and ask questions about the proposed amendments. In addition to this there will be an opportunity at the SGM to also ask any questions you may have.

Please feel free to reach out to me directly at 0429 833 752 or eringorter@outlook.com if you would like to discuss these matters further. We are committed to being agile in responding to your concerns, as we know that clear communication is essential to ensure everyone is fully informed and comfortable with the proposed amendments and encourage a two-way stream of communications on this matter. Your feedback and engagement is critical to the future of GGA, and I look forward to speaking with you.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to GGA's work. Together, we will ensure a bright future for Western Australia's agricultural community.






Kind regards,
Erin Gorter

Grower Group Alliance Chair



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