

## Open Meeting Summary

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) held the fifth and final RCSN Open Meeting on 13 August 2015 at the Mingenew Recreation Centre for the Geraldton Port Zone. This was the final in a series of open meetings that are being held the day before the main RCSN meeting and offers the general public of the port zone an opportunity to come and share the issues that are affecting their profitability. The meeting was facilitated by Julianne Hill, Coordinator of the RCSN in the Western Region, with support from Cameron Weeks (Planfarm) who has guided the Geraldton Port Zone RCSN for the past four years.

A total of 23 general public guests attended from the Geraldton Port Zone. Members of the general public were able to register for the Open Meeting at the RCSN website at [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au) and were also able to submit an issue should they be unable to attend. In total, 36 people were in attendance with the following GRDC members available for meeting attendees to talk with: Roger States – GRDC Regional Manager West; and Darrin Lee and Susan Hall – members of the GRDC Western Panel.

The meeting also included a presentation from Cameron Weeks *for* Dani England on an RCSN funded project on family advisory boards and Christine Zaicou (DAFWA) on a port zone trial on early seeding. These presentations were well received and generated further discussion.

A key part of the open meeting was the opportunity for participants to share the top five issues affecting their profitability and to be part of the group discussions on identifying the top 10 issues affecting the group as a whole. The aim of these discussions was to provide growers with direct input into the analysis of current local priorities affecting productivity and profitability to assist in the discussions relating to future projects by the RCSN. The following table represents the top 10 issues with multiple votes and a side note on how these were taken forward in the RCSN meeting the next day.

Top 10 Issues (Ranked %)	RCSN Meeting Actions on top 10 Issues
Seasonal variability (26%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.
Input costs (chem, fert etc) (13%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.
Farm business management, finance and IT (12%)	Further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to support this priority.
Soil health (11%)	Existing national initiative on this area and further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to explore port zone gaps in this area.
Profitable break crops (10%)	Existing national initiative on this area and further development on potential 1-3 year RCSN project activities to explore port zone gaps in this area.
Acidity (9%)	Existing national initiative on this area.
Herbicide resistance (8%)	Existing national initiative on this area.
Non wetting (4%)	Existing national initiative on this area. RCSN booklet published - <a href="http://www.rcsn.net.au">www.rcsn.net.au</a>
Breeding (4%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.
Grain marketing (2%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.

High ranking issues will continue to have presence at the RCSN discussion table and will be forwarded to the GRDC Western Panel for continued visibility as port zone related issues that feed into existing or future national initiatives. All of the top five issues at the Open Meeting were further developed at the closed RCSN meeting the next day.

**Thanks and Further Details.** Thank you to all everyone who attended the Open Meeting and contributed to the detailed discussions. For further details on the RCSN, please visit [www.rcsn.net.au](http://www.rcsn.net.au) or contact the RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on [regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com](mailto:regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com) or via 0447 261 607.