

Open Meeting Summary

The Regional Cropping Solutions Network (RCSN) held the second RCSN Open Meeting on 21 July 2015 at the Dowerin Community Club for the Kwinana West Port zone. This was part of 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.

A total of 23 general public guests attended. Members of the general public were able to register for the Open Meeting at the RCSN website at www.rcsn.net.au and were also able to submit an issue should they be unable to attend. In total, 35 people were in attendance which included RCSN members and the following GRDC members available for meeting attendees to talk with: Roger States (GRDC Grower Services Manager) and John Even (GRDC Western Panel).

The meeting also included a presentation from Ben White (Kondinin Group) on an RCSN funded project on understanding map layers for variable rate technology. Improving spray fallow techniques for better moisture conservation, better winter and summer weed control. This presentation was 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 nine issues with multiple votes and a side note on how these were taken forward in the RCSN meeting the next day.

Top 9 Issues (Open Mtg)	RCSN (Closed) Meeting Actions on top 10 Issues
Utilising rainfall (21%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Financial management (13%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.
Weeds (13%)	Existing national initiative on this area. However, potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Communications (tech) (12%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.
Rotations (9%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Soil pH (9%)	Existing national initiative on this area. However, potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Soil disease (8%)	No further project development at this stage but will remain on the RCSN priority list.
Compaction (7%)	Existing national initiative on this area. Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.
Machinery (7%)	Potential for 1-3 year port zone related project activities - priority worked up at closed meeting.

All issues raised at the Open Meetings 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.

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 or contact the RCSN Facilitator, Julianne Hill on regionalcroppingsolutions@gmail.com or via 0447 261 607.