



FREE EYRE: Michael Treloar and Grant Hayman discussing Free Eyre at the Cummins meeting with managing director Susi Tegen.

Grain venture to go ahead

By Bonnie Puckridge

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EYRE Peninsula-based farming business FREE Eyre will successfully reach its aim to form the joint venture company "EP Grain" with the Emerald Group.

Farmers were told at a meeting in Cummins last Thursday the group still needed \$900,000 to reach the \$1.2 million target, but FREE Eyre has received enough favourable responses for it to go ahead.

"We have been approached by many farmers who would like to be part of FREE Eyre and would like more time to receive their grain cheques from last year's harvest," FREE Eyre managing director Susi Tegen said.

The group has now extended the deadline to allow further grower participation.

"Growers asked us to extend the

deadline because they wanted to support Free Eyre. In the last few weeks we have gained another 70 plus members and now have approximately 325 members that started from 247."

"We are absolutely overwhelmed with farmer support and their interest in a company which is owned by them."

"Free Eyre will continue to raise funds and increase membership for the EP grain joint venture, the meat finishing projects and others in development.

"We are determined to make this work, it is one step at a time," she said.

EP Grain's chief executive officer and grain marketer are expected to be announced for the joint venture this week.

It is envisaged the EP Grain chief executive and staff would be locally based.