

ABC Rural

EP GRAIN JOINT VENTURE

By Louise FitzRoy

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The Eyre Peninsula grain industry will have a bigger influence on the export market after an amalgamation of local grower owned company Free Eyre and newly accredited grain exporter Emerald.

Free Eyre's Managing Director, Susi Tegan said growers will be in control of the EP grain joint venture, with 50 per cent of the business remaining in shareholder hands.

Ms Tegan said farmers showed relief at their AGM yesterday, welcoming news they'll no longer be ignored.

"We've had some very positive feedback." she said.

"Free Eyre board members will be on this board...and we will always ensure that Free Eyre's voice will be heard."

But for this to happen growers will need to understand the EP grain concept, and Emerald's Deputy Chairman, Mike Chaseling, has guaranteed they won't be left out of the loop.

"There are a range of questions about some of the logistics... about how the joint venture is going to work." he said.

"It is a 50/50 joint venture and one of the core values of the joint venture is about putting farmers front and centre as the customers of the new company."

In this report: Susi Tegan, managing director, Free Eyre; Mike Chaseling; deputy chair, Emerald Group

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