



SAGIT

Are you the next trustee?

The South Australian Grain Industry Trust (SAGIT) invests an average of \$2 million a year to research crucial to advancing the SA grain industry.

Research funded by SAGIT is specific to the South Australian environment, growing conditions and farming systems. SAGIT invests in research with a focus on driving practice change at a state and local level, to benefit the SA grain industry and help growers increase their profitability.

SAGIT has an open call for projects to benefit SA grain growers and the wider SA grains industry. The trust encourages innovative ideas from the research

community, grower groups and grains industry participants.

The trust is mandated to use the funds for research, development and extension into the growing, harvesting, storage, processing and marketing of grain in SA in order to increase profitability and sustainability of the grains industry. SAGIT also looks for projects that will provide more immediate outcomes for growers through development and adoption of research.

SAGIT is directed by, and accountable to, growers. It is unique – no other state has a research fund supported by growers for state-based, grains industry research.

Get on board - SAGIT is keen to hear from SA grain growers or people with corporate governance experience who may be interested in joining the Trust.

SAGIT is comprised of a five trustee board – four Group A trustees appointed by Grain Producers SA, and a Group B trustee appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development. SAGIT's Project Manager and Scientific Officer provide support and specialist agronomic and scientific advice to ensure funding decisions are well-informed and credible.

What's involved?

An annual call for research applications is held from November to February. It is important that issues affecting SA grain production and innovative ideas to progress the industry are taken into consideration when deciding how to invest levy money. Between 30 and 40 applications are usually received, with the trustees required to read and rank the applications according to set criteria in readiness for discussion and approval at the March board meeting.

SAGIT trustees are expected to attend a minimum of six meetings per year held in Adelaide. These include:

- February – annual budget, 1 day and GRDC Grains Research Update, 2 days
- March – research application assessment, 2 days
- July – policy, 2 days
- July – Annual SAGIT Researcher Update, 1 day
- September – final report presentations, 2 days

Other meetings usually take place via Zoom if required.

SAGIT management provides a mentoring style approach including field visits to research sites to ensure quality of applications and research outcomes. Trustees are invited to attend these visits during August and September.

Successful projects are subject to a funding agreement with clearly defined key performance indicators. Regular contact between the trustees and researchers is maintained and independent scientific advice offered.

Researchers are required to submit progress reports each year with a final report due upon completion of the project.

An annual report of how levy funds are spent is available to growers and provided to Grain Producers SA and the South Australian Minister for Primary Industries to ensure correct management of growers' money.

Each appointment is for an initial three-year term, with reappointment to a maximum of nine years' service. The chair is elected by the trustees and can serve for a maximum of five years.

Trustees are paid at a daily fee rate as set by the Federal Remuneration Tribunal for "Committees of Research and Development Corporations". Any travel undertaken on SAGIT business is reimbursed at the market rate.

About YOU!

The skills required for the role include:

- Knowledge of the techniques and technologies of grain growing and grain research in SA.
- Good communication skills.
- Financial analytical skills.
- Strong understanding of corporate governance.
- Previous board experience would be an advantage.
- Have completed or are willing to undertake the Directors course with the Australian Institute of Company Directors.
- Understanding of commercial-in-confidence protocols.

SAGIT is committed to promoting diversity and gender equality within the grain industry. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

For more information, please contact Andrew Barr or Malcolm Buckby.



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