

Project Title: Seasonal Climate Forecasts for SA Grains – Looking forward

S 5/05 Final Report

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Executive Summary

Outcomes of this project include: supporting producers to distinguish the difference between climate change and variability and supporting them to manage climate change by becoming more flexible and robust within each season. These outcomes were reached by; researching the usefulness of seasonal climate forecasts for grain growers use in SA and producing a booklet for producers about when to use seasonal forecasts and when to ignore them. We delivered the seasonal climate outlook book initially to over 250 producers in workshops and farmer discussion sessions. We also helped them prepare management plans for seasonal variability and climate change using other supportive tools and services. The workshops were also used to find out about what type of producers needed to know about climate change. A second booklet was produced to provide this information with a large focus on adaptation to climate change. Another 250 producers were shown the climate change booklet and in workshops. More information was gathered about adaptation to climate change from these workshops and had been written and accepted as an oral paper by the 14th Australian Society of Agronomy Conference, 2008.

In the latter part of the project, climate indicator signs were erected in 3 major grain growing regions of SA. They allow producers to view climate support information at field days and farmer walks and via consultants, in an easy to understand interpreted format. They have provided a great prompt for discussion and a summary of climate information alongside soil water levels, yield forecasts and nitrogen recommendations.

All of the outputs generated from this project are made available to producers through workshops and the internet. They have been, and will continue to be, marketed through various media.