



# Ellis welcomes crop insurance

THE announcement of a unique new crop insurance to cover participating growers for the production cost of their total wheat and barley input for the current season has been welcomed by Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis.

Mr Ellis, whose family has grown grain at Bindi Bindi for four generations, said the issue had been a hot topic among growers.

"The cover is the first of its kind in Australia," Mr Ellis said.

"And with drought still causing anxiety, it will provide an incentive to farmers to continue cropping and can be factored into their decision-making.

"At a time when morale has been low in some regions, it will also ease the pressure on many farming families.

"Some of my family farm at Bruce Rock and I am not surprised that crop insurance meetings proved popular in that area given the dry, dusty paddocks I experienced first-hand when I was there recently."

The Cost of Production cover will be offered through CBH Mutual, which is a discretionary mutual fund

established for this purpose to cover production costs in years where yields have fallen below specified levels.

The product was developed in conjunction with Willis Australia (part of the Willis Group, a leading global insurance broker) following extensive consultation with WA Farmers Federation Risk Mitigation Committee.

Mr Ellis urged growers to consider the Product Disclosure Statement before they applied for cover, as the product would not suit all farmers and there would be limited availability.

"I understand that applications will be individually assessed and offers may not be made to all applicants, so I urge growers to take the advice of CBH and seek independent advice before applying," Mr Ellis said.

"Growers should also carefully consider the Product Disclosure Statement before making any decision for this cover."

Information on the product, the application form and the Willis call centre details will be available on the website [www.cbhmutual.com.au](http://www.cbhmutual.com.au)

from April 4.

Mr Ellis urged growers to investigate their options online promptly, as this service would only be available during the application period of April 4-30.

Member of the Legislative Council for the Agricultural Region Philip Gardiner said this was the first plank to make grain growing sustainable in the new world of high input prices and increasing volatility of seasonal growing conditions and grain prices.

"It adds financial substance to the Drought Mitigation package and allows wheat and barley growers to be reimbursed of the costs of production in the event of a crop wipe out due to seriously adverse weather conditions and so be able to meet the expenses of sowing a crop again in the following year," Mr Gardiner said.

"It gives a new management tool to improve financial security, especially to young grain growers seeking to make a profession in WA's broad acre agriculture.

"It is the most important risk management development that the grain industry has seen for many years."



**A first:** Crop insurance for growers is welcomed by Agricultural Region MLC Brian Ellis as he sees first hand the dry dusty paddocks that cover most of the Wheatbelt.