

Susi Tegen Bio

Susi Tegen and her partner (and children) are livestock and crop farmers from the Limestone Coast, in the south-east of South Australia. She is the Managing Director of 'FREE Eyre' a primary producer owned and driven company which identifies, incubates and commercialises new businesses opportunities for the Eyre Peninsula.

Susi has been committed to primary industries and its future sustainability for the past twenty years, not only on farm but through her involvement as Deputy Chair of Farmsafe SA and Deputy Chair of FarmBis SA.

She was CEO of the Limestone Coast of Division of General Practice for more than 8 years. The organisation focused on the sustainability of the medical services in rural communities which included recruitment, retention and training of doctors and community medical and health projects.

Susi is the 2009 RIRDC SA Rural Woman of the Year, a Director of the Adelaide Western General Practice Network and is a Fellow of the Australian Rural Leadership Program

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Abstract

FREE Eyre Limited

The last few years have presented primary producers in the Eyre Peninsula, South Australia many challenges.

It has been a testing time globally with fluctuating world grain supplies and growing demand for feed grain from intensive livestock production, the increased importance of grains for industrial purposes, particularly in the ethanol and biodiesel industries and increase in consumption in developing countries.

The Eyre Peninsula has dealt with yet another drought and despite rallying grain prices, many farmers have been challenged with low yields and ever increasing input, logistic/access and labour costs.

Australian Farmers, indeed those farmers that live and work in the Eyre Peninsula have had to become smarter in regard to innovation in machinery, diversification in commodities and maximizing returns and costs in the supply chain.

This of course is the very reason a cluster group such as FREE Eyre was able to develop. Adversity often motivates people to take a new approach and to work together. With a shareholding of over 370 primary producers, business people and members of the community, an independent skills based board, FREE Eyre has very defined aims; to identify, develop, incubate and commercialise business opportunities for primary producers in the Eyre Peninsula.

Through its prospectus, FREE Eyre has raised over \$2 million. Focusing on 4 initial business opportunities; a \$1 mill investment into a 50% / 50% joint venture grain marketing company – EP Grain, alternative grain storage options and access to port, sheep meat and carbon offset opportunities.

A little more than 1 year old the EP Grain has signed up more than 200,000 ton of grain, turned over more than \$60 mill and obtained more than 15% of the Eyre Peninsula's crop.