

Tuesday 3 February

PR/004/09

Grain marketing on the agenda for post-harvest meetings

The NSW Farmers' Association is encouraging all growers and grain industry participants to attend one of a series of post-harvest grain meetings this month to discuss the outcomes of the new wheat marketing system.

NSW Farmers' Association Senior Vice President and Chair of the Grains Committee Richard Clark is chairing the meetings, which are taking place in Lockhart, West Wyalong, Trangie and Narrabri on 18 and 19 February.

According to Mr Clark, the meetings are designed to bring together the grains industry to discuss the results from the first harvest of grain marketing under the new arrangements, and future issues arising from harvest.

"As all growers are well aware, this harvest has been less than ideal, with many issues arising out of the changes to the wheat marketing system," Mr Clark said.

"There is a great deal of consternation among the industry about the system and its effectiveness, and these meetings are designed to create a forum where all growers and industry representatives can come together to discuss these issues.

"It is likely that the meetings will raise questions about marketing arrangements, negotiating contracts, storage and handling strategies, extra information needed by growers and skills required prior to the next harvest.

"The aim of the meetings is to gather as much information as possible about how the changes have affected growers and the industry, so that we can address these issues with Government," Mr Clark said.

The meetings will be held in Lockhart (9am-12pm) and West Wyalong (3pm-6pm) on Wednesday 18 February, and Trangie (8am-11am) and Narrabri (2:30pm-5:30pm) on Thursday 19 February.

Representatives from AWB Ltd, GrainCorp, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, an independent grain marketing advisor and the Association's Grain Committee will be in attendance at the meetings.

Members, growers and industry participants interested in attending are asked to contact the Association's Member Service Centre on 1300 794 000 to register.

**Note for Radio: An audio grab from NSW Farmers' Association Senior Vice President and Chair of the Grains Committee Richard Clark is available from our website (www.nswfarmers.org.au/media_centre/audio_grabs). However, if you would prefer to conduct your own interview, please contact Ruth Redfern on the number listed below.*

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