

In February 2007 the Association conducted a series of surveys and studies of farmers in NSW. These showed a substantial majority of grower (80%) favoured the retention of a single desk export wheat marketing system. At the Association annual conference in July members passed a motion that called on Government and industry to “...develop a new grower controlled entity before 1 March 2008 to manage the wheat export single desk”. With the support and alliance of all the other State Farming Organisation, funding from growers and support from the former Federal government, the Wheat Export Marketing Alliance (WEMA) was formed in order to establish a new grower owned export wheat marketing entity known as Auswheat. Since that time the Association has been pursuing the establishment of Auswheat on behalf of members and Australian farmers as a whole under the banner of WEMA. The Association has been integral in establishing a business plan securing support and implementing the plan to develop a foundation for Auswheat.

The Association Grains Committee and staff have dedicated a large amount of time and resources to the progression of WEMA and the development of Auswheat. A number of letters and submissions have been developed and meetings conducted supporting the Association's position. Committee members John Ridley and Stuart Gall have attended meetings around the country including Perth, Melbourne, Adelaide, Canberra Junee and Sydney.

It has been decided by the WEMA board, and supported by participating organisations, that WEMA continue to fight for Auswheat and a single desk despite the new Federal Government's multi permit policy. WEMA has an appointment with the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's the Hon Tony Burke on the 15 February 2008.