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## Growers must voice concerns

The NSW Farmers' Association is calling for all NSW grain growers to provide their own submission to the Productivity Commission, following the release of its draft report into Wheat Export Marketing.

NSW Farmers' Association Grains Committee Chair Mark Hoskinson says the draft report contains many points which are of concern to growers.

"The only way to address this is to ensure the grower's voice is heard. I strongly encourage growers to make a submission. The closing date is 23 April 2010," he said.

"The Productivity Commission draft report suggests the transition to deregulation has been remarkably smooth. This is drawing a long bow given all the documented problems with access to port and supply chain issues. This conclusion is unbelievable.

"There is a large focus upon the 10% of growers producing 50% of the wheat in this draft. What about the other 90%, are they coping with the deregulated marketplace."

The NSW Farmers' Association is also reaffirming its support for Wheat Exports Australia, the body in charge of regulating the export of bulk wheat from Australia.

"The Association believes ongoing accreditation of bulk wheat exporters by WEA is necessary to give growers confidence in their dealings, and to uphold quality assurance," Mr Hoskinson said.

"The Productivity Commission wants to see WEA abolished by 2011. It is absolutely essential it be maintained until at least 80% of growers are comfortable with deregulated wheat export markets.

"In fact the Association is in favour of an extended role for WEA, whereby it would benchmark the performance of all accredited exporters and publish export information in the interest of market transparency.

"Moreover in our initial submission to the inquiry in December 2009, the Association recommended the Productivity Commission conduct a survey, as part of its inquiry, of all registered grain growers regarding their experience of deregulation.

"I again urge all growers to review this draft report, and make their own submissions by the 23 April cut off. Our market arrangements are of utmost important to us all," Mr Hoskinson concluded.

Go to [www.nswfarmers.org.au](http://www.nswfarmers.org.au) for the full report and all details on submitting a report.

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