

Grain

Agricultural Inputs

Agricultural Inputs

AC08 That the Association pursue transparency of stocks of the major agricultural inputs.

Corporate

AWB

EC06 That the Association:

(a) insist that all costs associated with the Volcker and Cole Inquiries, and any subsequent related costs, be met by AWB Ltd and not AWB International (AWBI); and

(b) request the Chairmen of AWB Ltd and AWBI give this assurance.

NSW Grains Board

EC06 That the Association pursue the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Independent Commission Against Corruption about the collapse of the NSW Grains Board.

Farm Costs

Fertiliser Prices

AC07 That the Association undertake whatever action is considered appropriate to mitigate and reverse the impact of fertiliser price increases

Machinery

96 Oct GC That the Association investigate:

(a) the disparity between the prices of machinery and parts in Australia charged by major North American manufacturer dealerships and the prices paid in North America by American farmers for the same machinery and parts; and

(b) ways in which this disparity could be addressed and reduced.

Farm Management

Insurance

AC 01 That the Association request the NFF to continue its efforts to introduce multi peril insurance and progress to Phase Three of the MPCl investigation.

AC06 That the Association seek later and more realistic "Final Yield Dates" for crop insurance policies.

04 Feb EC That the Association seek the introduction of a final tonnage nomination date that more evenly reflects the commencement of harvest from the north to the south of NSW.

Farming Systems

Stubble Management

99 Oct GC That the Association ensure that grain growers retain the option to burn stubble as a management tool.

Freight

Futures Market

AC08 That the Association seek to support the development of a tradable secondary market for the trading of freight and storage to provide a transparent, efficient, accessible and cost effective service to all New South Wales grain growers.

Harvest Mass Management Scheme

AC 04 That the Association lobby the NSW Transport Minister to implement a Grain Harvest Management Scheme similar to the Queensland system.

04 Oct EC That the Association offer to administer any future Grain Harvest Management Scheme in NSW.

AC07 In view of the recent RTA campaign to enforce the Chain of Responsibility legislation, the NSW Farmers' Association will urgently endeavour to bring in a Harvest Mass Management Scheme in NSW that is acceptable to members.

Harvest Mass Management Scheme

- (a) it provides negligible truck weight flexibility for growers under chain of responsibility legislation;
- (b) it will leave growers arguably more exposed to penalty for overloaded trucks given the capture and provision of extensive weighbridge data at no expense to the RTA; and
- (c) it would be unjustifiably expensive for the Association to implement and administer.

Grain

Grain Oat Breeding Facility

AC05 That all commodity groups within the Association lobby their respective research and development organisations to financially contribute to the NSW Department of Primary Industries' dual purpose grain breeding program.

Single Desk

AC07 That the Association:

- a) work with members, other state farming organisations, the Federal Government and relevant industry organisations to develop a new grower controlled entity before 1 March 2008 to manage the wheat export single desk which:
 - i. maximises pool returns
 - ii has access to a capital base which ensures high first payments and an effective hedging strategy.

Single Vision

05 Feb EC That the Association support the staged implementation of Single Vision Grains Australia.

04 Apr EC That the Association support a second forum as part of the Grains Council of Australia (GCA) Single Vision strategy on the basis that it:

- 1. is called the "Australian Grains Forum",
- 2. is chaired/convened by an independent Chairman/convenor,
- 3. is represented on the Grains Business Forum by the independent Chairman/convenor and the President of the GCA,
- 4. deals with issues of common interest,
- 5. doesn't develop policy and has no public position on issues,
- 6. is not used for lobbying purposes,
- 7. does not have a direct link to Government/s other than through the GCA,
- 8. its initial participants are:
 - a. President of the GCA, and a delegate from each of the state affiliates, in their own capacity representing producers,
 - b. A delegate from the Grains Growers Association (GGA) and from United Grower Holdings (UGH) as "infrastructure shareholders" representing infrastructure.

Wheat Marketing

AC08 That the Association lobby the Federal Government, due to imposing deregulation on the wheat industry, to set up and fund a comprehensive re-adjustment package for the wheat industry to ensure that:

- a) Through legislation all growers are secured creditors, when they supply produce to commercial traders;
- b) Grain merchants are registered with a Federal Government wheat markets licensing authority, to ensure grain traders have sufficient funds to support their trading activities;
- c) The new Wheat Marketing Act contains a quality assurance scheme;

Grower Representation

Ensure the Industry has a Federal Representative Body

EC07 That the Association ensure that the grains industry has a strong and accountable federal representative body.

Infrastructure

Grain rail and road infrastructure

AC07 That the Association in partnership with other key industry stakeholders;

- a) Negotiate with the NSW and Federal Governments to achieve a sustainable grain logistics network solution; and
- b) Call upon Pacific National and the State Government to reconsider the original contractual obligation to construct Grain Consolidation facilities (GCF) at Werris Creek and Stockinbingal

Ports

AC08 That the Association seek a guarantee that the private traders of grain be able to access loading facilities at sea ports in a reasonable time frame.

AC 97 The Association believes that reforms are necessary to achieve the most efficient, least cost and competitive handling, transport and shipping system possible. For Australian agriculture to be a more effective and profitable competitor on world markets, reforms should be pursued, including:

- (a) removal of cabotage (Australian flag coastal shipping monopoly); and
- (b) the introduction of enterprise employment on the waterfront for grain loading.

Rail

AC 06 That the Association lobby the NSW Government to provide a long term funding commitment to all rail branch lines as part of a integrated transport system in NSW and as part of this process ensure that broadacre agreement funds are invested in grain rail infrastructure in this state.

AC 05 That the Association: (a) continue to seek immediate funding to maintain and upgrade all 15 restricted rail branch lines to a standard that enables their long term operation until alternative or mutually supportive infrastructure initiatives such as the Brisbane to Melbourne rail track are implemented; and
(b) seek recognition by the State Government of the capacity for the 15 restricted branch lines to carry commodities other than grain.

AC08 That the State Government assist private operators by any means necessary to provide essential infrastructure including loco motors and rolling stock to move grain on branch lines and from there to port.

EC 06 That the Association in partnership with other key industry stakeholders, negotiate with the NSW and Federal Governments to achieve a sustainable grain logistics network solution.

AC 98 That the Association support the establishment of a standard gauge railway line between Moree and the Port of Brisbane.

AC 02 That the Association lobby the State Government to ensure that rail infrastructure spending is adequate to allow for the upgrading of the States grain line network to an economically sustainable standard.

AC 97 That the Association: (a) continue to reject the closure of branch railway lines where there is no other cost effective means to move grain;
(b) encourage private rail enterprises to move grain on branch lines which are no longer being used by FreightCorp.

AC 03 That the Association seek urgent commitment from the Government to upgrade and maintain all rail, roads and bridges that underpin the supply chain of the grains industry in NSW.

AC 04 That the Association: (a) oppose any branch line closures and support the upgrading of all rail lines where grain is transported,
(b) continue to support the maintenance of adequate rail services in NSW country areas,
(c) ensure that the decision making process involves public participation, including with individual branch line committees and local communities,
(d) lobby the NSW Transport Minister to ensure that the Rail Corporation controls all weeds in railway corridors.

Road

AC 06 That the Association lobby the state government to bring roads up to B-Double standard in areas where silos have been closed.

Storage and Handling

03 Feb EC That the Association accept that Grain Consolidation Facilities (GCF) will be built and give qualified support to the GCF provided they improve business efficiency.

AC 01 That the Association ask the Grains Council of Australia to use every effort to coordinate the activities of grain handlers and transporters to maximise grower returns.

AC 04 That the Association, in view of GrainCorp's stated aims of supply chain cost reduction and supporting rail branch line receival sites, use its best endeavours to encourage GrainCorp to upgrade its outloading facilities on branch line storages.

AC 99 That the Association support the continuing improvement of grain handling facilities and services for grain growers in NSW by GrainCorp and seek further reductions in grain handling charges for those using the GrainCorp system.

Marketing

AWB

AWB

regular reports on the costs of key services including the cost of finance from AWB Ltd to AWB International.

AC 99 That the Association support the AWB's primary duty to maintain pool arrangements and specifically that:

- (a) the standard pool option be available;
- (b) the extended pool option be available;
- (c) the highest possible first payment which does not attract any underwriting fee be available; and
- (d) all fees and charges be fully transparent, contestable and pro-rata to the level of first payment.

AC 02 That the Association continue to support ticket by ticket sales of Export Wheat to AWB Ltd.

AC 02 That the NSW Farmers' Association request annual reporting by AWB International of the costs and benefits of the Pool Acquisition Process, with particular reference to the regional office and agency/management structure.

Feed Grain Stocks

02 Oct EC That the Association use its best endeavours to assess and publicise the availability of Feed Grain for domestic use and maintain an ongoing assessment and communication process.

Futures Market

AC08 That the Association vigorously support the use of the Australian Stock Exchange as the major price discovery tool for Australian grain.

Grain Contracts

AC08 That all physical and futures phone grain trade deals be recorded as is the case with stock brokers.

Grains Council of Australia

EC06 That the Association continue to lobby through the GCA, and directly, for an end to the export subsidies and taxpayers support of production offered by our major competitors to their farmers. In particular to ensure that:

- (a) The Cairns Group continues.
- (b) The WTO process charts a course for Trade liberalisation for grains after 2000.
- (c) The Australian Grains Industry develops a system for lobbying the US on matters such as the US Farm Bills and the targeting and use of the EEP programme.

Payment

EC05 That the Association in conjunction with other same interest groups (i.e. Grain Growers' Association) discuss with National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association (NACMA) to improve payment standards of grain (produce) requesting:

- (a) payment with 14 days of delivery; and
- (b) weight dockets are from a registered weigh bridge.

AC 05 That the Association, through the Grains Council of Australia, formally request that GrainCorp, AWB, ABB, CBH and other bulk handlers develop a nationally consistent protocol for the promotion, advertising and public display of Estimated Pool Returns and cash prices to allow simple determination of net receipts to growers.

That the Association seeks that:

- (a) Wheat payments should be clearly identified on bank statements.
- (b) The AWB should pay all growers within 14 days of delivery, provided growers registrations are in order.
- (c) Growers should have the option of receiving payment in \$US by the AWB.
- (d) Port zone differential deductions (on the present system of calculation) should be an interim deduction only with adjustments made in later pool payments based on the actual performance of each port each year.
- (e) The AWB should introduce negotiable certificates to provide producers with greater pool payment flexibility.
- (f) The AWB should include on their advice slip details of the various charges pertaining to freight handling, storage and research levies.
- (g) Redeemable certificates covering growers equity in wheat pools should be introduced.

Terms and Conditions

AC 01 That the Association lobby for all purchasers of grain at silos to display their terms and conditions on site for cash sales.

Wheat Export Market

AC08 That the Association work to ensure that the Wheat marketing act contains binding regulations regarding open fair and equitable access to port and up country storage's

EC09 That the Association write to the Hon Tony Burke Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, Leader of the Opposition and the Hon Warren Truss, Leader of the National Party, outlining the sentiment of the Association's post harvest grain meetings.

That the Association seek a meeting with the Hon Tony Burke Minister for Agriculture to outline in detail the views

Wheat Export Market

of the membership at the meetings.

Including the Draft AUSWHEAT plan to the Minister.

That the Association extend the invitation to the Hon Tony Burke Minister for Agriculture to meet the Grains Committee.

That the Association extend the invitation to the Hon Tony Burke to meet with growers at a suitable location in the grain belt.

EC08 That during the imposition of a multi exporter wheat marketing system the Association work with Government and industry bodies to make sure it is equitable.

AC07 As changes result in Australia's wheat marketing arrangements, NSW Farmers' Association should engage with

key industry stakeholders and government to support a broadening of government policies relating to the export of wheat so that these policies incorporate:

a) a long term view /benefit of the wheat industry;

b) a retention of the basic business benefits available to growers under the current wheat marketing arrangements;

c) support for pooling arrangements which are subject to strict public reporting requirements and which provide payment security;

d) need for greater transparency of commercial signals and information across industry;

e) a regulated wheat export system that requires exporters to operate within predetermined compliance and enforcement frameworks;

f) an openly contestable export market for bags and containers;

g) a reduction of costs across the grain value chain; and

h) the provision of regular updates to members and requests for industry input for such negotiations.

Quality Assurance

Fertiliser Quality

AC 99 That the Association seek that NSW Agriculture reinstate spot checks on fertilisers to ensure that the fertiliser analysis is as stated on the label and not contaminated.

Grains Industry Code of Conduct

EC09 That the Association support the development of a grains industry code of practice which includes at least: production, marketing, transport and handling modules.

Lime Grades

97 Feb GC The Association seeks to inject more QA into the Lime Industry by suggesting a standard grade be identified and promoted against which other grades can be evaluated.

Training

97 Feb GC That the Association seek that NFF/GCA:

(a) support ongoing agricultural chemical users training programs;

(b) support the introduction of a suitable pesticide declaration form for graingrowers.

RD&E

Biodiesel and wheat breeding research

AC07 That the Association urge the Grains Research and Development Corporation to:

a) Speed up the development of a northern winter dry land oilseed with potential for biodiesel production;

b) Further invest in alternative uses of all grains and crop residues, and;

c) Maintain wheat breeding research within the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

End Point Royalties

99 Feb GC That the Association seek both directly and through GCA the co-operation of the federal minister and his department to allow the levies management unit of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to collect (at cost to the holder of the rights) a levy on varieties which may vary between varieties; and that:

(a) all royalties collected on behalf of breeding institutes be retained by those institutes for further breeding work.

(b) where plant material is bred partly with funds from GRDC, the GRDC share of the royalties be collected and returned to GRDC.

(c) where royalties are applied to further research, they are entitled to dollar for dollar funding.

AC 05 That the Association: (a) request the Grain Research & Development Corporation and the Grains Council of Australia to review current seed price schedules of major plant breeders, seed retailers and distributors of GRDC

End Point Royalties

- co-funded varieties to determine whether they represent a true and fair commercial value of products on offer;
- (b) request all relevant seed companies to delete contract clauses which allow grain buyers to automatically deduct End Point Royalties from grower proceeds; and
- (c) That the Association call on the federal government to conduct an inquiry into the PBR Act.

99 Feb GC That the Association support the principle of an end point royalty system in the grain and pasture seed industries, subject to royalties being set at a reasonable level.

Industry good function

AC07 That the Association ensure with the broader industry and Government support for the continued provision and improvement of industry good functions. These functions are to include:-

- a) industry strategic planning and execution;
- b) grains receival standards (QA, identity preservation and standardisation of measuring systems);
- c) grains classification and framework for new variety development;
- d) crop shaping activities (grade systems and matching production to customer needs);
- e) grains crop quality report;
- f) generic promotion of Australian Grain;
- g) research and Development liaison role;
- h) trade advocacy;
- i) analysis and dissemination of industry information

National Residue Survey

95 Oct GC That the Association support the extension of the national residue survey (NRS) program to cover Canola and Chickpeas, providing that the funds required to conduct the program are fully collected from these grains (ie. There is no cross subsidy with other grains).

Prosecution for improper practices

That the Association seek prosecutions should be pursued with the utmost vigour and heavy penalties applied when Australia's rural exports are placed at risk by fraudulent or improper practices, such as:

- (a) delivery of chemically contaminated grain;
- (b) misrepresentation of grain varieties; and
- (c) propagation of wheats identified as posing a serious disease risk to the wheat industry in NSW.

Feed Wheat Release Policy

The Association raises no objection to the release of feed quality wheat varieties provided that:

- (a) adequate provisions, including severe penalties, are made to ensure that such wheat is not allowed to mix with milling wheat;
- (b) no disease threat is presented to existing milling varieties; and
- (c) such wheat varieties will not be included in the list of recommended milling varieties for the AWB.

Varietal Identification

The Association supports high priority being given to the research and development of technology which will enable the rapid identification of wheat varieties on receival.

Export Malting Barley

The Association should pursue a national uniform receival standard for export malting barley.

Objective Measurement of Oilseeds

A code of practice should be established for the objective measurement of oilseeds at the time and point of delivery.

National Grain Legume Standards

The Association adopts the National Grain Legume Standards as recommended by the National Grain Legume Consultative Committee.

National Variety Trials

00 Feb GC That the Association seek that GRDC ensure that plant breeders provide accredited information on varieties to NVT before registration and commercialisation so that there is no doubt on any variety's attributes and that further grants be dependent on the provision of this information.

03 Oct EC That the Association seeks that the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) ensures that all varieties funded through both contract direct investment and/or joint venture by grower levies must be independently rated and/or assessed for yield disease and use before release.

AC 96 That the Association seeks that all lines of seed should be tested in a State Core Trial for a minimum of three years and that this should apply to all seed offered for sale whether by private or public companies or breeders.

AC 06 That the Association request that GRDC improve the delivery of new varieties by:

- a) better coordination between National Variety Trials management, farmer co-operator and contractor; and

National Variety Trials

b) coordination of NVT and agronomy trials.

AC 01 That the Association seek that all Grains Research and Development Corporation leviable grain varieties released in Australia be submitted for National Variety Trial (NVT) accreditation and be placed on the NVT database; and that the Association promote the use of NVT accredited varieties.

AC 02 That the Association lobby GRDC to establish a system of independent variety evaluation trials and to give objective agronomic information to grain growers.

Plant Breeders Rights

AC07 That the Association seek the Federal Government hold an inquiry into the funding, plant breeding and testing of agricultural crops in Australia

Plant Disease

97 Feb GC (h) support the urgent development and use of stem rust resistant wheat varieties to replace stem rust susceptible varieties and that the aim be to eliminate the use of susceptible varieties.

AC 99 (j) pressure State Departments of Agriculture and the GRDC to increase research funding to enable the fast tracking of yellow leaf spot resistant varieties.

00 May GC (i) increased funding into sclerotinia and other diseases of canola.

AC 05 That the Association's Grains Committee immediately liaise with the GRDC, AWBI and other industry bodies with a view to:

- (a) designing a self regulating, national exit strategy, to remove existing rust susceptible wheat barley & triticale varieties currently being grown, which could be used as a template if the situation occurs again; and
- (b) encourage plant breeders not to breed rust susceptible varieties.

EC09 Seek approval from Executive Council for the Association to write to all growers groups, expressing our alarm at the increase in area of MS (moderately susceptible) wheats. Contact GRDC and ask that wheats that have a rust threshold below MR (moderate resistance) be removed from growers lists.

00 Feb GC That the Association seek that GRDC plays a necessary role in addressing the following issues as a matter of urgency:

- (a) funding of development of objective, instrumental tests for black point;
- (b) a focus on black point resistance in bread and durum wheat breeding programs;
- (c) risk management options for growers with regard to minimising the occurrence black point and head scab in wheat;
- (d) assessment of downgraded wheats for market potential;
- (e) development of processing strategies to ameliorate the effects of black point, small grain and weather damaged grain; and
- (f) funding of research to lessen the inaccuracies of moisture measurement, including re-calibration of conductance meters for freshly harvested grain.
- (g) dramatically increase funding of research into wheat diseases.

Research

AC 99 That the Association seek that existing research not be disadvantaged or reduced in favour of biotechnology.

Research Funding

AC 05 That the Association insist in the strongest terms that the State Government re-establish funding for local agronomy district cereal management, pasture and fertilizer trials throughout mixed farming districts where funding has been removed.

AC 01 That the Association seek that seed varieties and enhanced germplasm, developed with grower levies, or through state/federal breeding programs for public good be made available either under:

- (a) Plant Breeder Rights (PBR)
- (b) Commercial partnerships
- (c) Licensed agreements.

G9.3 Disclosure of Contents

AC 04 That the Association clarify:

- (a) the use by GRDC of research levies on varieties that subsequently attract a further levy for plant breeders, and
- (b) the direction of GRDC in relation to commercialising its activities.

Seed Certification

AC 01 That the Association seek that NSW Agriculture continue seed certification services.

Seed Regulations

Seed Regulations

Receival Standards

Grain Deliveries

EC04 That the Association in conjunction with GrainCorp and NACMA develop an appropriate formula and protocol for high moisture feed grain deliveries (i.e. similar to golden rewards/bonus discounts).

Grower Representation

AC 99 That the Association undertake a review of the current National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association (NACMA) grains marketing standards (conditions of sales) with a view to the inclusion of producer interests.

AC 01 That the Association:

- (a) formally seek representation on the National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association (NACMA);
- (b) recommend to Grains Council of Australia and NACMA the establishment of a national grains receival standards committee under the umbrella of NACMA;
- (c) in conjunction with the Grains Council of Australia, seek formal GROWER representation on such a committee.

Wheat Quality Standards

AC 00 That the Association seek that the setting of wheat quality standards be independent of seed companies, particularly AWB Seeds.

Rust threshold

Plant health and breeding release standards

EC09 Seek approval from Executive Council for the Association to write to all growers groups, expressing our alarm at the increase in area of MS (moderately susceptible) wheats. Contact GRDC and ask that wheats that have a rust threshold below MR (moderate resistance) be removed from growers lists

Storage and Handling

Receival Standards

AC 03 That the Association seek the introduction of a canola "payment for quality" scheme that includes oil, protein, admixture and moisture.

AC 02 That the Association support in principle the retention of bonification in its present form. (Note: Bonification is the payment of additional increments for oil content above a base level. A proposal before the Australian Oilseeds Federation seeks to cap oil payments at 43.5% oil).

Stored Grain Protection

99 Oct GC That the Association support measures to preserve the continued use of phosphine in stored grain.

Terms and Conditions

EC05 That the Association: (a) seek clarification in writing from the major grain storage providers (AWB, GrainCorp etc.) as to when the ownership of grain in warehouse is transferred;

(b) lobby the Federal Government to change current legislation covering warehousing of grain so that ownership remains until a proper contract is exchanged.

Testing Procedures

AC 97 That the Association seek:

(a) that testing procedures and equipment be introduced at all GrainCorp silos to ensure consistent determination of grain standards across all silos in NSW;

AC 00 That the Association seek that GrainCorp consult with growers and implement a grain moisture testing procedure that is consistent across Australia, is one that is on-line across the nation/state and one that takes into account both grain temperature and ambient temperature to give an accurate and consistent reading.

AC 05 That the Association, through the Grains Council of Australia, formally request that GrainCorp, AWB, ABB, CBH and other bulk handlers develop a nationally consistent procedure for the measurement of grain moisture content.

AC 00 (a) The continual monitoring throughout harvest of testing procedures and standards and equipment at GrainCorp receival sites to be undertaken by an independent authority;

Testing Procedures

- (b) that grain tested for receipt into GrainCorp be tested by an independent authority ie; similar to wool which is tested by the Australian Wool Testing Authority, an independent body.
- (c) All personnel sampling and testing wheat should be fully trained and qualified.