

September 2009

Dear Grain Grower Members,

Contact Us

GRAINS COMMITTEE

Mark Hoskinson (Chair)
mhh1@bigpond.com

Peter Cannon (Deputy Chair)
peterjannon@hotmail.com

Wayne Dunford
lynton@activ8.net.au

Mark Swift
swiftyandtreen@bigpond.com

Ralph Gebhardt
kanoona1@bigpond.com

Rod Hatty
rodhatty@harboursat.com.au

Martin Honner
mhonner@activ8.net.au

Jock Munro
the_brae@bigpond.com

Ben Bailey (Young Farmer)
bqbailey@bigpond.com

NSW FARMERS' ASSOCIATION STAFF

Ben Mason
Policy Manager
Cropping and Business,
Economics and Trade
T: 02 8251 1827
masonb@nswfarmers.org.au

T: 02 8251 1700
F: 02 8251 1750
Level 25, 66 Goulburn
Street, Sydney NSW
2000

Member Service Centre
1300 794 000

The Grains Committee has had two teleconferences since Annual Conference to progress new and existing policy issues and it will be meeting in West Wyalong on the 29 and 30 of September to continue to work through current issues facing the Industry. A Grower's Forum is scheduled from 4:00pm on 29 September.

This is your chance if you are able to meet face to face with the new Committee to raise issues that you want addressed. Remembering that the Committee is there to work for Members and to advise both the Executive Council and the Board. The Committee is trying to spread meetings in the State in the future in order to make itself accessible to more Members. A list of and the contact details of the Committee is available on the Association web site and I encourage members to contact Committee Members or our Policy Manager Ben Mason if you have any grain related issues you want to raise.

The Association has commenced a new Membership campaign which provides 15 months of Membership for the price of 12 (therefore 3 months of Membership will be provided at no extra cost) to new Members who join the Association between now and 13 November 2009 and this offer applies to all membership types. Existing Members who introduce people to the Association who then sign up and become a financial Member (irrespective of the membership type) will be entitled to have their Membership extended by 3 months. The more people that you get to sign up, the longer your membership is extended.

The number one issue at the moment continues to hinder the Industry is the continued Drought. Whilst some areas of the state are experiencing a good season many areas are facing reduced yield potential to no yield at all. We as a Committee are well aware of the severity of this issue for Members and are working closely with the President and Executive Council to put forward a plan of how best to continue the work we have already done over the past 9 years.

The Committee also welcomes the appointment of Ben Bailey to the Committee from the Young Farmer's Council of the Association. We look forward to working with Ben giving him experience on the Committee and also having him there as a representative of the new generation of farmers coming through the ranks.

It looks likely that Road Train access to the Bland Shire is more likely after a meeting amongst stakeholders, the RTA and the Bland Shire. I will be attending another meeting next week representing the Association to encourage as per our Policy the opening up of further Road Train access across the State. We have also been awaiting the outcome of the NSW Grain Freight Review as well as protesting any further Rail closures as we need to keep freight on Rail.

Further in this Newsletter you will find further detail on what we as a Committee have been involved with pursuing the Policy of our Members including a lot of work on Research & Development. All of this could not happen without the dedication and hard work put in by Staff Members of the Association. On behalf of the Committee I would like especially to thank Ben Mason, Cropping Policy Manager for his help getting myself and the rest of the Committee organised and up to date.

Kind regards



Mark Hoskinson
Chairman – NSW Farmers' Association Grains Committee

Meeting with Productivity Commission – Wheat Export Marketing

On Monday 31 August 2009, the Association met with representatives of the Productivity Commission (the 'Commission') in Sydney. The Commission will be responsible for conducting the Review (the 'Review') of the Wheat Export Marketing Act 2008. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background information prior to the Commission drafting a discussion paper. The Productivity Commission has a tight timeline to develop the issues paper for the Review, which begins on 1 January 2010 and ends on 30 June 2010.

RAC Chairs Meeting

The Grains Committee Chair and Grains Policy Manager attended a meeting of the 6 NSW Research Advisory Committee Chairs and the NSW RAC Co-ordinator at the Sustainable Farming Training Centre at the Tamworth Agricultural Institute on 2 and 3 September 2009.

Day 1

- Chickpea variety and disease management
- Nitrogen timing-cereals/crown rot update/stripe rust update
- Integrated disease management/inter-row sowing/equipment demonstration
- Nitrous oxide paddock measurement
- Durum breeding
- Grain and Graze (progress on new structure)
- Pasture Research

Day 2

- Future Cropping Consortium ('FCC') progress. The FCC is a collaboration between UNE, Sydney University and NSW Department of Industry and Investment.
- Getting the best out of RAC Committees

Grains Committee Teleconference 17 August 2009

The Grains Committee held a teleconference on 17 August 2009. Items of discussion included the implementation of resolutions passed at Annual Conference, the joint venture between CLEAR and GrainCorp, the appointment of representatives external and within the Grains Committee, the recent development of the Grain Growers' Association PriceWise website and the NSW Grain Freight Review.

The Association has written to the Hon. Tony Burke MP and the Hon. Anthony Albanese MP to request the release of the Report from the NSW Grain Freight Review. The Association also has written to the Hon. Tony Burke MP to invite him to meet with grain growers at a suitable location in the grain belt to discuss issues affecting the industry. Appointments to Committees external and within the Committee are below:

Committees	Currently filled by
RD and E Sub-Committee of Grains Committee	1. Wayne Dunford
	2. Mark Swift
	3. Peter Cannon
Transport /Machinery delegate	John Ridley
Australian Oilseeds Federation	Mike O'Hare
GTA; Board	
• Transport Storage & Handling	TBC
• Standards	Mark Hoskinson
• Corporate Governance	Alan Brown
• Commerce	Nick Taylor
Exotic Diseases (Grains)	Wayne Dunford
Nth Regional Barley Advisory Committee	TBC
NSW Seed Growers	Hugh Roberts
Parthenium Taskforce	Stuart Gall

Suspension: Weemalah – Camurra Branch Line

The Association has written to the NSW Minister for Transport, the Hon David Campbell MP, expressing its concern and has met with the Minister on 16 September 2009 regarding the decision of the NSW Department of Transport and Infrastructure to suspend rail activity from the 1 September 2009 upon the Weemalah to Camurra Grain Branch line north-west of Moree. The Association has been made aware that the planned closure is due to the report from the Australian Rail Track Corporation which deemed the line unsafe and not fit for purpose. Main concerns raised by the Association is the substitution of road transport for rail which would require an extra 16,000 B-Double trucks to move the estimated 150,000 tonnes currently in storage and the expected 2009 harvest of 500,000 tonnes, and the added freight cost of \$6/T. The Association has recommended that the NSW Government make funds available to enable the capital works necessary for the line to be returned to the safety standard required for ongoing use.

ACCC – Port Access Undertakings

The ACCC has conducted a review of the port access arrangements, which included extensive consultation with farmers, port operators and grain exporters, which included a submission from the Association. As a result, the ACCC has issued draft decision on the 6 August 2009 that it will not accept the access arrangements proposed by port operators CBH, ABB and Graincorp in their current form.

The ACCC considers that proposed port access arrangements developed by these three operators should provide greater clarity and transparency for Australian wheat exporters. Specifically, the ACCC considers that the port access arrangements should:

- recognise the need for port operators to have flexibility to operate their supply chains efficiently in the transitional environment
- provide Australian wheat exporters with fair, transparent and non-discriminatory access to port terminal facilities, and
- provide transparent and clear processes for managing demand for port terminal services.

The ACCC has provided detailed feedback to the port operators to assist them to revise their arrangements to a form that could be accepted.

National Working Party on Grain Protection

Dr Pat Collins convened the 2009 annual meeting of the National Working Party on Grain Protection ('NWPGP') in Canberra on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 August 2009. Grain Trade Australia ('GTA') as Secretariat on behalf of the convenor held the meeting.

The NWPGP is a whole of industry working group that addresses entomology; insect infestation; grain protectants; fumigants; physical control methodology; pesticide residue violations; market requirements; application technology; Industry education; and technical relationships with domestic customer organisations. Furthermore, National and International Regulation are discussed across a wide range of Industry organisations in an attempt to identify specific problems and determine directions for resolution. Regulatory requirements, reviews and information requests are considered, and agreed Industry submissions produced and submitted to regulatory organisations.

It is the only avenue for various Australian Government Departments to discuss Australian and Codex regulations and market requirements in relation to chemicals with Industry. In essence it serves the grain industry through the introduction, evaluation and improvement of Good Agricultural Practice relating to post-harvest chemical use and insect control.

Australian Oilseeds Federation ('AOF') Report

The AOF held a General Meeting in Melbourne on 27 July 2009. Membership fees were discussed and Corporate membership has increased from \$600 to \$1000. The Association membership was separated from Corporate membership and left at \$600.

Crop Reports for Canola are estimated at 1.75mt, including 40,000ha GM canola and 40,000ha Juncea canola. Forecasts for 63,000t sunflowers, 120,000t Soybeans and 450,000t Cottonseed. The "Better Oilseeds Project" has been extended to June 2010. Canola agronomy information is now available on

AOF Website. The AOF also held a standards meeting on the same day. The Biosecurity Australia cost for the Phytosanitary Certificate is increasing from \$10 to \$100. This will mean \$5/t on 20 t container. AOF holds several Minor Use Pesticide Permits for Oilseed crops. Possible permit cost increase from \$320 to \$750.

Oil Bonification - Some exporters are worried that they are exporting on minimum 42% oil contracts, but where average oil exceeds this they are out of pocket after paying bonification. AOF and Association policy is "Payment for Quality" based on oil, admix, protein & moisture. Issue referred to Canola Quality Objectives Group.

Western Australia Wheat Futures and Options

The Australian Securities Exchange ('ASX') will list Western Australia Wheat Futures and Options (WAW) (PDF 88KB) on **Monday 14 September 2009**. Options on these futures contracts will be available to trade from Tuesday 15 September. The first contract maturity to be listed will be January 2010.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NSW Farmers' Association Grains GROWER FORUM

The 2009-2010 Grains Committee are holding their first face to face meeting in West Wyalong on 29 and 30 September, which will include a GROWER FORUM from 4pm – 6pm on Tuesday 29 September to discuss issues affecting grain growers.

Venue: West Wyalong Services and Citizens Club

Date: 29 September

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Members are also invited to dine with the Grains Committee after the forum at the S & C Club from 7pm.

Please RSVP for catering purposes to Ben Mason,

Phone: (02) 8251 1827 Fax: (02) 8251 1750 Email: masonb@nswfarmers.org.au

The following articles have been written by organisations external to the Association and therefore the views contained in the articles may not necessarily represent the views of the Association.

CLEAR Grain Exchange integrates with GrainCorp Warehousing System

The CLEAR online grain exchange recently announced its decision to integrate its platform with the warehousing system of east coast bulk handling company, GrainCorp.

Grain growers and traders are expected to benefit from improved integration between the two systems. Australian growers who store grain with GrainCorp will be able to automatically transact through CLEAR. Previously, growers were required to nominate CLEAR upon delivery of their grain, or transfer their grain to CLEAR via warehouse, creating a number of steps they needed to complete before getting the opportunity to sell through CLEAR. Now growers can simply deliver their grain to a GrainCorp site and it will automatically appear on CLEAR, the same as it does on the GrainCorp warehousing system, ready for the grower to put a price on it.

The general opinion is that the arrangement will help fuel liquidity by providing a sustainable supply of grain within the CLEAR grain exchange, enabling growers, brokers and buyers to trade confidently and efficiently through CLEAR.

Another recent development with CLEAR has been the introduction of a 'Do It Yourself' trading service, which provides direct system access to growers who prefer to trade without the assistance of a broker. Previously, growers wishing to trade and sell their grain via CLEAR had to do so through an advisor or broker, CLEAR Do It Yourself (DIY) will enable the DIY Grower to confirm tickets, place their grain on offer and/or accept Buyer bids for their grain.

For more information regarding CLEAR, the recent GrainCorp integration, or the launch of the 'Do It Yourself' trading service, visit the CLEAR website at www.cleargrain.com.au or call 1800 000 410.