



GRAINS COMMITTEE 2011/2012

Mark Hoskinson (Chair)
mhh1@bigpond.com

Peter Cannon (Dep Chair)
peterj cannon@hotmail.com

Ross Durham
radurham@skymesh.com.au

Rob Eassie
robeassie@hotmail.com

Martin Honner
mhonner@activ8.net.au

Jason Hunt
jrfhunt@hotmail.com

Wayne McKay
mckayw@nswfarmers.org.au

Jock Munro
the_brae@bigpond.com

Gordon McNeill (YF)
gmcneil2@hotmail.com

NSW FARMERS' STAFF

Ben Mason
Senior 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

Dear Grain Grower Members,

Unfortunately it has been another case of a wet harvest for many parts of the State resulting in significant downgrades of grain. NSW Farmers has been keeping abreast of the flood issues and is in regular contact with the relevant State and federal Departments and Ministers to update them on the damage. Please click [here](#) for the latest information.

For those crops still with good prospects, hopefully the weather will hold out.

Please read on to see how NSW Farmers is working for you.

Kind regards



Mark Hoskinson
Chairman – NSW Farmers' Grains Committee

Graincorp Flood Update

North western NSW

- Flooding rain in north western NSW.
- Minor to moderate flooding in yards of several GrainCorp sites.
- No water ingress reported in any sheds or silos.
- Flooding has not affected any bunker storages or led to any detectable grain losses.
- Flood mitigation measures in place at Merrywinebone, Garah and Baradine.

Grain delivery advice

NSW Farmers urges Members to adhere to the following guidelines when harvesting and delivering grain.

No herbicide pre-harvest

Growers should not apply herbicides to malting barley varieties prior to harvest for either weed control or desiccation. Applying herbicides, including glyphosate or paraquat, to malting barley prior to harvest will reduce the germinative energy and the germination capacity of malting barley. Grain Trade Australia (GTA) standards require malting barley to have – Germinative Energy minimum 95 % and Germinative Capacity minimum 98%. Advice from Graincorp is that any malting barley varieties treated with herbicides prior to harvest will be downgraded to feed grade.



Observe Withholding Periods

Growers should take note of all relevant withholding periods shown on herbicide labels. The application of herbicides, including glyphosate, to wheat prior to harvest is not advised for wheat intended for retention as seed.

Simple checks can avoid costly mistakes

By undertaking a number of simple pre-harvest farm hygiene inspections, potentially costly grain contamination problems can be avoided.

Look out for pickled grain

To ensure you do not deliver any pickled grain, always check any equipment or structures that may have been used to prepare, store or carry pickled grain. Any grower detected as having delivered pickled grain will be liable for all losses related to contamination of grain and storages, and for any related clean-up costs.

Keep track of and clear all rodent baits

Growers must ensure that all grain storage, transport or conveying equipment is free from rodent baits. Grain containing rodent baits will be rejected upon detection. Any grower found to have delivered grain containing rodent baits will be liable for all losses related to contamination of grain and storages, and for any related clean-up costs.

Higher Mass Limit routes

The Deputy Premier the Hon Andrew Stoner MP announced on 17 November that there has been an increase of 12% to the amount of routes suitable for use by Higher Mass Limit vehicles since the March 2011. This is a lobbying priority for both the NSW Farmers Grains and Business Economics and Trade Committees for improved road and rail infrastructure in NSW.

National Grains Forum

NSW Farmers attended the inaugural GGL Quarterly Grains Forum in Melbourne on Friday 11 November.

The aim of the forum was to review emerging grains issues and ensure the most appropriate mechanisms for response and action are identified. The meeting was attended by grower and executive representatives from New South Wales, Queensland (ARGA), South Australia, Victoria (ARGA), and Western Australia – including NSW Farmers' Association, South Australian Farmers'

Federation, and WA Farmers' – and on a national level, the National Farmers' Federation (NFF) and GrainGrowers. The group agreed that current top priorities for grain growers, with the over-arching priority of improving the profitability of grain growing are as follows:

- Infrastructure – covering rail, road and ports.
- Supply chain input – particularly grower consultation on, and input into, supply chain organisations and decision-making.
- Research, development and extension.
- Biosecurity.
- Timely, relevant, transparent market information.
- Australian grain promotion – quality and brand promotion.
- Access to tools and the ability to utilise them namely GM crops and crop protection chemicals.
- Education – including (a) securing skilled youth into the sector, (b) maintaining current skills and the knowledge-base, and (c) recognition by the community (and decision makers) of the importance of the food production sector and the responsible manner in which these businesses operate.

Further, the group agreed on a broad action plan around these key issues that will be taken forward over the coming months and also fed into the NFF agenda. These will be reviewed at the next National Quarterly Grower Consultation Forum to be held in Sydney in February 2012.

NSW Farmers commented that it was very important that while the National Grains Forum was going ahead, that resolving the discussion around having agreement on the structure of the National Representative Organisation was paramount. Ongoing discussions around grain grower representation were noted and it was agreed that further discussion around this, including State and National entities, would be held before year's end. Specifically it was agreed that the CEO of NFF and CEO of GGL would revisit the Points of Convergence agreed at the 2 September Roundtable Meeting.



Grains Update

GGL AGM

GGL explained the progress made in the past 12 months with establishing their new strategy, making a \$53 million profit from the sale of their Graincorp shares and Dubbo building and progressing the restructure of their business, employment of 4 regional staff and national membership initiatives.

The new constitution was accepted by 90% of votes. Directors Steve Hargreaves and Spencer Milliar were re-elected.

Key changes to the GGL constitution included;

- Deleting all references to Graincorp in the constitution given that all shares in Graincorp have been sold.
- The 3 GGA zones (Northern, Central and Southern) in the Eastern States become 3 GGL Regions nationally, Northern Region (Qld & N/NSW), Southern Region (S/NSW and Vic) and Western Region (SA & WA).
- 2 Existing Zone 1 Directors will become Northern Region Directors.
- 2 Existing Zone 3 Directors will become Southern Region Directors.
- 2 Existing Zone 2 Directors will not initially represent a Region.
- 2 additional Directors will be appointed by the Board to represent the Western Region (WA & SA).
- 2 non-grower Directors may be appointed by the Board.
- New clause revoking proxy if appointing member dies.
- Agricultural Reference Group of Australia (ARGA) replaces the Regional Committees.

The Board will determine the term, remuneration and appointment of representatives to ARGA.

Members will have the opportunity to be engaged in the activities of GGL through ARGA and GGL field staff located around Australia.

This replaces the Regional Committees.

Other sessions at the National Grain Grower Summit included;

- APVMA presentation from key officials from APVMA
- Mark Barber (ACIL Tasman) – State of the Industry report (changes since deregulation)

- Dr Ken Quail (GGL) - What the World wants from Australian Wheat (branding and promotion)
- Charlie McElhone (NFF) – Carbon – CFI
- Go Grains (nutritional promotion).

GTA Visual Standards

GTA has developed a new GTA Visual Recognition Standards Guide which is available for order and delivery now by visiting the [GTA Website](#) or a PDF can be downloaded [here](#)

Cargill Additional Capacity and sites receiving Canola

Oaklands (NSW) - additional 50kt of storage space.
 West Wyalong (NSW) - additional 50kt of storage space.
 GrainFlow has also invested in additional canola receival equipment and has added eight grain receival sites that will now take canola for the first time. GrainFlow sites which will accept canola this year in NSW are:
 Bogan Gate, Gilgandra, Grong Grong, Narromine, Nyngan, Oaklands, Stockinbingal and West Wyalong.

Graincorp investment

Graincorp has invested \$13.5 million in capacity upgrades across 21 sites in NSW and Victoria. The following sites in NSW have had upgrades;

Site	Upgrade to Capacity (metric tonnes)
Gurley	24,000
Condobolin	30,000
Merriwagga	25,000
Parkes	30,000
Wirrinya	35,000
Naradhan	28,000
Henty West	75,000
Kikoira	30,000
Barellan	25,000



Grains Update

New Malt House at Pinkenba

Barrett Burston Malting, a wholly owned subsidiary of GrainCorp, opened Queensland's largest malting facility on Thursday November 24, at Pinkenba on the north side of the Brisbane River. The \$80 million facility will convert barley from Queensland and northern NSW into high quality brewing malt, with around 50% of the production supplied to Foster's Yatala brewery and the remainder exported through the Port of Brisbane to major brewers in Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. The malt house has an annual capacity of 86,000 tonnes and the adjacent GrainCorp grain handling and storage terminal provides an additional 12,500 tonnes of storage capacity which can receive grain by ship, rail or road.

Beware Seed Producers – Have a Contract!

NSW Farmers reiterates the importance of seed growers having a signed contract prior to committing substantial expenditure towards commercial seed production. Expenditure on fertiliser, chemical and other preparation costs only to find out later that there is no existing contract with the seed company can result in significant financial losses.

Diuron

The APVMA has suspended the registration of 66 diuron products with limited but continued use allowed in some situations, subject to additional restrictions.

The suspension will be in place until 31 March 2012 to address risks to waterways from diuron runoff while the Authority completes further assessments on the chemical and determines the appropriate long-term regulatory action. Read the [Media Release](#).

Broadly, the suspension:

- prohibits use of diuron in high application rate situations (including irrigation channels, drainage ditches, driveways, fence lines and others) from 28 November 2011 to 31 March 2012.
- prohibits use of diuron on tropical crops (sugarcane, tea, bananas, pineapples, coffee and paw paw) from 5 December 2011 to 31 March 2012, with additional restrictions outside this period.

- allows continued use of diuron on a range of crops and some industrial situations subject to additional restrictions.

In broadacre cropping scenarios, the use of Diuron will remain relatively unaffected. Maximum usage rates will be 1.8 kg active constituent per hectare per year.