

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

04 & 05 JUNE 2019
RYDGES ON SWANSTON
701 SWANSTON STREET
MELBOURNE

Meeting Market Requirements

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NATIONAL WORKING PARTY ON GRAIN PROTECTION (NWPGP)



2019 AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

This File Note lists outcomes agreed by the 2019 Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference (Conference), hosted by the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) in Melbourne on 4-5 June 2019. Agreed outcomes, major discussion points and findings are listed numerically in no order of priority.

There were over 130 attendees at the Conference, representing all sectors of the grain supply chain.

To provide comment on this document or to comment on any NWPGP related matter, please contact GTA via email at admin@graintrade.org.au.

A. Headlines

- The Conference continues to be well attended and meet the needs of industry.
- Market access compliance with chemical MRLs remains high.
- Further extension activities with key sectors particularly those involved in on-farm chemical use and advocacy is planned to assist understanding of the implications of chemical use on market access.
- Industry management of chemical residues is improving due to application of additional tools to capture data, and further development of those tools is planned.

B. Official Welcome

The Chairman of Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Andrew Goyder opened the Conference. GTA provided a commitment to continue to support the activities of the NWPGP, including:

- Administration of the NWPGP and organising the annual Conference which continues to be strongly attended by representative of all sectors of industry and a range of government stakeholders; and
- Promotion of the NWPGP and its deliberations through various industry publications and on the GTA website.

The Chairman commented on the number of participants representing all areas of the supply chain, noting it was pleasing Australia continues to maintain its reputation as a supplier of safe grain that meets both customer and regulatory requirements in relation to chemical residues. He also noted the previous day's workshop which discussed alternative strategies for industry to manage chemical residue compliance.

C. Continued Role of the National Working Party on Grain Protection

The Conference acknowledged:

- The assistance of GTA and it was agreed to continue the NWPGP annual Conference and activities of the NWPGP using the administrative support offered by GTA.
- Past Conference advocates and industry influencers – the late Peter Botta and the late Jim Desmarchelier.

A number of administrative tasks were discussed and **agreed**:

- 1) That the 2019 Conference outcomes be documented and distributed to all attendees.
- 2) That the outcomes of the 2019 Conference be placed on the NWPGP page on the GTA website and forwarded by GTA to all invitees, attendees and the wider grain industry via a GTA Member Update. See <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>.
- 3) The NWPGP Strategic Working Group (SWG) be responsible for developing the agenda and making arrangements for the 2020 NWPGP annual Conference, to be held in a suitable location. Industry feedback on agenda items and other matters related to the Conference was encouraged in order to develop an agenda of relevance to the industry.
- 4) A note of thanks was provided to:
 - i. GTA staff for their continued support of the NWPGP; and
 - ii. SWG members; and
 - iii. All sponsors of the 2019 NWPGP Conference, especially the Gold Sponsors as listed on the Conference agenda.

It was further **agreed**:

- 5) That the SWG continue to operate and provide oversight of relevant NWPGP activities, including addressing industry issues as they arise.
- 6) NWPGP Working Groups be formed as required, and existing ones continue to address matters of relevance.

D. Communication & Extension Activities

The Conference was provided with details of a range of communication and extension activities conducted and supported by various industry organisations such as the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC):

- As part of the GRDC RD&E Strategic Plan, significant investment occurs in a range of activities covering grain storage, chemical use and grain hygiene. Extension material is developed on various topics and widely distributed as required.
- Current and future directions of the Grain Storage and Extension Project were outlined:
 - A large number of storage workshops for growers and other storage operators have been held throughout the year and these are planned to continue.
 - Uptake of good storage practice onfarm continues.
 - Surveys indicate a good level of grower understanding of what constitutes a sealed storage.
 - An opportunity exists for those survey results to be used by the post-farm gate sector to assist extension activities.
- Advocacy and the role of the agronomy and chemical re-seller sector was discussed at length. It was noted that opportunities exist to work with that sector to develop specific extension material addressing issues such as the impact of chemical use on market access and any identified information gaps.
- A number of tools are available and their use is increasing to assist capture of chemical use and management of stored grain on farm.
- Further extension is required on understanding and compliance with label directions and the implications on market access.

It was **agreed:**

- 7) That the Chair NWPGP continue to liaise with the GRDC, MBIBTC, ASF/CLA (and other industry stakeholders as required) on any matter relating to activities discussed under the auspices of the NWPGP.

E. Regulatory Update

The Conference was provided with an update on a range of matters dealing with Codex and other international and domestic regulations:

- An outline of the regulations that apply in Australia, how MRLs are developed and how non-compliance with MRLs those was provided.
- The significant input in Codex matters from Government and the benefits of that input to maintain chemical registration by industry was acknowledged.
- A number of Import Tolerance applications for key chemicals and commodities in some export markets had been made and discussions on outcomes were ongoing.
- Australia continues to provide input into overseas country regulatory issues through active participation of the National Residue Survey (NRS), supported by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).
- Co-ordinated industry input via the NWPGP into developing the Australian Government position on various overseas MRL changes continues to be vital and participants were encouraged to contact the Chair NWPGP for input into that process.
- The NRS reminded attendees of the change in assessment methodology as of 1 July.
- A comprehensive Codex update on outcomes of the 2019 CCPR Conference was provided.

- Progress on activities to reform chemical regulations such as work being done on the harmonisation of MRLs for pesticides in the Asia-Pacific region and addressing the issue of “missing MRLs” was outlined.

It was **agreed**:

- 8) Industry should continue to respond to the Chair of the NWPGP or directly to regulatory authorities regarding any comments on Trade Advice Notices or similar chemical issues.
- 9) That the Conference fully endorses the continuation of the GRDC funded project enabling the NWPGP Chairman on behalf of the Australian grains industry:
 - i. To provide input to and attend as required, international forums such as Codex; and
 - ii. To actively liaise with national regulatory organisations such as the APVMA and NRS on chemical related matters.
- 10) That through the GRDC funded project, the NWPGP Chairman will:
 - i. Continue to liaise with industry to provide input to the NRS on matters relating to chemicals raised through SPS and other international processes; and
 - ii. Continue working with NRS to facilitate the establishment and or maintenance of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.

F. Insect Infestation Trends, Resistance & Grain Treatments

Insect species detected:

- An overview of the insect species detected in various locations in the last year was provided.
- There was no major differences than in recent years.
- The general consensus was that storage treatments on-farm (various methods) were improving, given the importance of controlling insects at the source rather than at some point further down the supply chain where control may be more problematic.
- It was noted that mites are an issue for management for particular sectors and further work in this area is required.

Stored grain treatments applied:

- No significant departures from prior year treatments have occurred or been required to control insects.
- The use of Diatomaceous earth as a structural application continues to be promoted as an effective hygiene treatment.
- It was emphasised that compliance with recommended label rates was not only a regulatory requirement but also needed to adequately control all life stages of insects.

Insect Resistance:

- An update on the distribution and frequency of insect resistance in various storage types and locations to a range of chemicals in Australia was provided.
- A range of current and alternative resistance management strategies to maximise the use of current insect treatments were suggested to the Conference attendees.

It was **agreed**:

- 11) The Post-Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances document for 2019/20:
 - i. Be revised as per the outcomes of the 2019 NWPGP Conference via liaison with the NRS and GPA; and
 - ii. Is placed on the GTA website and distributed to industry.

G. Storage Update

The Conference was advised:

- On-farm storage continues to increase, with growers in general being more informed in grain husbandry and appropriate storage types to manage insects and grain quality using techniques such as aeration.
- Of results from the most recent Kondinin Group survey on silo types and the opportunity going forward of future use of this survey results.
- A number of growers are installing sealed storages that comply with the Australian Standard AS2628, enabling fumigation for insect control.
- Further extension is needed on the impact of construction techniques of silos and their subsequent ability to meet the Australian Standard AS2628.
- In sectors of the supply chain, including on-farm, a number of larger silos continue to be installed that do not meet this Australian Standard, requiring an insect management strategy other than fumigation.

H. Market Access

A range of topics were covered under this item. These included:

- An update from the Working Groups and industry sectors addressing the use, registration and residues arising on specific chemicals such as glyphosate, haloxyfop and flutriafol.
- The Working Group addressing the overall theme of “MRL Compliance”.
- An outline of the continued work on capturing industry market access issues and the Market Access Database to capture market access issues.
- A presentation on the impending changes in export legislation and the performance of industry to meet importing country quarantine requirements, including freedom from stored grain insects.

National Residue Survey (NRS) Results:

- An outline of the results from the program from 2018/19 to date was provided.
- Compliance with MRLs continues to be at a very high level as per recent seasons, with some marked improvements for specific chemicals.
- Changes to chemicals included in the residue screen have occurred following industry consultation.

It was **agreed**:

- 12) That the Conference fully endorses the NRS Grains program including the recent changes to the program.
- 13) That the Conference fully supports:
 - i. The activities of the NRS relating to pesticide residues, MRLs, and relevant market requirements, including those raised through WTO SPS and other international processes.
 - ii. The current NRS responsibility of providing market access advice and action to facilitate the establishment of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.
- 14) To continue to support the requirement for industry to outturn grain containing protectants at half the MRL for all existing grain protectants (ROL – recommended outturn limit).
- 15) The NWPGP endorse:
 - i. The use of the Market Access Database.
 - ii. The Chair working with the Prioritisation Working Group, NRS and other stakeholders as relevant using existing arrangements, address all chemical related market access issues.
- 16) The Chair NWPGP work with GTA to address any issues arising from the MRL Compliance Day workshop.

I. Specific Chemical Issues

Phosphine

- An update on the progress of development recommendations and research required to alter the phosphine label was outlined.
- Issues associated with industry compliance with the label, including venting of fumigant and resulting residues were discussed.
- Potential co-fumigation with other treatments was outlined.
- Research on novel technology for management of resistant insect species was highlighted.

J. Research Highlights

During discussion on the various topics outlined above, the Conference was provided with a summary and updates of progress in a number of important research areas related to grain storage and insect control.

Other topics included:

- The progress of development of a new silica-based grain additive ('Davren') for protection of grain against insect infestation.
- The use of sulfuryl fluoride as a break fumigant for phosphine continues, with further research into its use outlined.
- Control of phosphine-resistant rusty grain beetle.
- Latest findings on the use of effective aeration strategies.
- Research on stored grain insect pest pressure and phosphine resistance gene frequencies.