

Member Update

Title: EU Grain Biodiversity Declaration

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Distribution

- GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties

1 Background

Recently the European Union approved Directive 2009/28/EC. Whereby all raw materials destined for use in the production of European biofuel will require declaration that the raw material was not obtained from land deemed to be of a high biodiversity value, on or after 1 January 2011.

This decision prompted Grain Trade Australia (GTA), in conjunction with the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) and the Australian Grain Exporters Association, to develop a grower declaration known as Grain Biodiversity Declaration.

2 Definition

Within the Directive, land of “high biodiversity value” is defined as land being;

- forest and other wooded land of native vegetation; or
- land designated for natural protection or for the protection of threatened or endangered species; or
- highly biodiverse grassland; or
- areas of high carbon stock, namely: or
 - wetlands;
 - continuously forested areas;
 - land over 1ha with trees greater than 5 metres, or likely to reach such a height.

3 Requirement

As Australian Canola has historically made its way to the production of European Biofuel, the EU requires each shipment of canola be supported with documentation that confirms the product is derived from land which meets the European Union’s sustainability requirements.

Therefore canola growers may be asked to sign the Grain Biodiversity Declaration by buyer.

Growers will need to familiarise themselves with the Grain Biodiversity Declaration prior to signing, and should note that the Grain Biodiversity Declaration asks them to specify whether they are prepared to participate in an audit process. Growers should contact their buyer for more information in regard to the audit process, if required.

4 Access

The EU Grain Biodiversity Declaration and conditions are available on the GTA website:

www.graintrade.org.au