

GRAINMatters



EDITION 48, July 2020

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|--------|--------------------------|
| 19 AUG | GRAIN STANDARDS WORKSHOP |
| 26 AUG | GRAIN STANDARDS WORKSHOP |
| 2 SEPT | UGM WORKSHOP |
| 9 SEPT | TRADE RULES WORKSHOP |
| 14 OCT | NWPGP CONFERENCE |

COVID-19

GTA have established a COVID-19 page on our website, as information source for Members.

In response to member demand, GTA has set up COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

[Access COVID-19 page here](#)

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INQUIRY INTO DIVERSIFYING AUSTRALIA'S TRADE AND INVESTMENT PROFILE

The Federal Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Trade and Investment Growth have opened an inquiry with the focus of understanding whether there is a need for Australia to diversify its trade markets and foreign investment profile including:

1. Consider if Australia is too reliant on any one market for exports; and
2. The impact of trade, political disputes, and bilateral trade agreements.

GTA has provided a [Submission](#) and presented to the Inquiry Panel to assist the Inquiry Panel to progress its objectives. GTA in its Submission and engagement with the Inquiry Panel advocated:

1. A balanced approach to strategic trade policy as it is critical for the grain sector.
2. A focussed joint industry and Government approach to effectively counter any negative impacts of trade policy and regulation that unnecessarily distort markets and efficient trade.
3. Bi-lateral and multi-lateral approaches to trade and trade agreements that provide benefits to industry through a rules-based approach to trade.
4. Technical based dialogue and agreements as “tools” to address NTMs that can distort markets and reduce efficiency by increasing costs and risks for exporters and importers. GTA's view is that continued and greater focus on these “tools” will improve the facilitation of trade.
5. Trade and economic partnership agreements which provide mechanisms to gain and improve market access, which will assist in diversifying market opportunities for industry.
6. Increasing awareness and understanding among stakeholders, particularly policy makers, that the economic value of Australian industry is dependent on more than trade. In addition to improving trade outcomes, competitive advantage and value also needs to be driven by improving the efficiency of our supply chains.

MAJOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN A KEY IMPORTING COUNTRY

- [This Link](#) provides information relating to some significant industry structural change that has recently occurred in Saudi Arabia.
- This change is the privatisation of two of its four government flour milling companies. Details of the arrangements in the Link are provided by the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN EXPORTERS COUNCIL (AGEC)

- The last edition of Grain Matters highlighted the facilitation role that GTA provides groups such as the NWPGP. Similarly, GTA provides support and structure to other Member groups including the Australian Grain Exporters Council (AGEC). AGEC operates as a Sector Council of GTA.
- GTA Sector Councils offer specialist industry groups the opportunity to meet, form policy, discuss and influence issues in their particular area of interest without the administrative costs involved in operating separate organisations or associations.
- AGEC has been operating as a Sector Council of GTA since July 2018 and continues to strongly represent its export focused Members in critical issues such as the Chinese Barley Anti-Dumping.
- The AGEC Council recently met on the 3rd of June to progress and discuss its particular interests.

AGEC

GTA CONSULTATION - REVIEW OF AgVet CHEMICAL FRAMEWORK

- The Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment (DAWE) and an independent panel of experts in regulation, agricultural production, veterinary medicines and human health is in the middle of a comprehensive review the regulatory framework for AgVet chemicals.
- The review will examine the AgVet chemical regulatory framework's aims, structure and operation, and make recommendations to ensure that it is contemporary, fit for purpose and reduces unnecessary red tape.
- This is an important process given the AgVet framework underpins most of Australia's biosecurity and food safety activities. GTA has prepared a response and a Submission after a lengthy process of engagement and discussion with GTA Members, industry participants and with DAWE including a specific meeting with the independent panel to ensure industry issues are considered and understood.
- As a final step prior to the completion of the Submission GTA hosted a meeting on the 20th July 2020 to provide opportunities for GTA Members and industry participants to understand the details of the Submission and to discuss and suggest additional changes.
- Attended by eighteen (18) participants the meeting provided an excellent forum to capture input and proposed changes on the Review of AgVet Chemical Framework. Subsequent changes were made to the draft GTA Submission. This has now been finalised and [submitted \(here\)](#).

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH – SAMPLE SPEARS

- Industry has long debated the efficiency of sample spears and the equipment's capability to collect a representative sample of grain from a road truck. This has continued as the industry has progressed from the sole use of manual probes to mechanical and vacuum samplers.
- GTA is working collaboratively with the GRDC and other industry participants on the establishment of a proposed research trial. The Methods Sub-Committee (of the GTA Trading Standards Committee) met during July 2020 with GRDC and its technical consultant to define the most appropriate approach for the research to follow.
- Pending GRDC funding approval, the trial will consider all aspects relevant to obtaining a representative probe-sourced sample of grain within a road truck for the purposes of classification in accordance with industry grain standards.
- While industry sampling practices are well known and accepted, there remains **concerns sampling is inaccurate in certain circumstances**; including where vacuum probes are used to collect the sample. Some industry participants preference is to discontinue the use of vacuum probes.
- Research will be performed to establish any sources of error involved in the sampling of a road truck and will consider the accuracy of sampling probes including vacuum probes. A focus of the trial will be how the sample probes perform when assessing pulses and especially chickpeas.
- GTA will provide updates on the progress of this research trail and will ensure GTA Members have every opportunity to engage and provide input and comment into the process.

OUTCOMES OF THE JULY 2020 GRAIN AND PLANT PRODUCTS EXPORT INDUSTRY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

- GTA met with the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC) in July. [Industry Market Notification 8 of 20](#) details the Outcome of the meeting, which include:
- DAWE has proposed **to significantly increase some charges** for the grain export sector for the 2020/21 financial year. Due to C-19 the revised charges/export program budget will be delayed until at least October 2020.
- IT System and documentation processes are being progressed including PEMS 3. Note - **the use of PEMS will be mandatory and enforced** from 1 October 2020.
- Numerous operational and market access matters are underway including the use of Go-Pros to record vessel inspections, the release of the DAWE Plant Export Operations Strategic Plan and the finalisation of new instructional material for mobile bulk loading operations.
- The process of the review of the Draft Export Control Rules 2020 is progressing.

GLOBAL EPHYTOS CERTIFICATES SURGE UNDER COVID-19

- Industry globally is seeking to create efficiency within the grain trading environment through the establishment of the greater use of electronic documents and files between countries.
- GTA and the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) and its Working Group on Electronic Trading Documentation is pleased to report a marked increase in the number of export / import certificates exchanged electronically.
- June 2020 recorded 54,700 total certificates exchanged as compared to January 2020's total of 12,000.
- Within our Oceania region, Fiji and New Zealand on the 1st of July 2020 have become the first countries to exchange ePhytos.
- Australia's uptake and move to ePhytos has been delayed as a result of government system enhancement projects that must be progressed prior to fully being able to engage the ePhyto process.

EAST COAST HARVEST - LET THE PREPARATIONS BEGIN

- GTA and its Members are looking hopefully towards an east coast crop that has the potential to be in excess of the domestic consumptive demand.
- Whilst this is fantastic, and long-awaited Members are asked to consider and make early preparations to ensure the export facing supply chain functions as expected.
- GTA Members are advised to revisit their export related process and procedures and ensure they are updated and compliant with requirements across all the areas of the export supply chain. This should include a focus on the following (not exhaustive):
 - Customer and market requirements;
 - Quality assurance processes including DAWE inspection;
 - Understanding market preferences and import requirements;
 - Capacity and contractual arrangements with service providers;
 - IT system preparedness and capability; and
 - Export Sampling procedures;
 - Etc etc.
- GTA reminds its Members the Australian Grain Code of Practice and its Technical Guidelines Documents [Insert Link] are provided as guidance documents and may provide assistance to Members to understand the steps, processes and regulatory requirements associated with exporting grain.
- To assist new and old employees alike in the grain industry GTA provides Code Assessment Program [here](#). This is a tool by which all employees and industry participants can demonstrate they have the knowledge and understanding to ensure they and their employers can adhere to the Code of Practice.

MEMBER UPDATE

During July the following [Member Updates](#) have been released:

- [Member Update 15 of 20](#) - An Update to **the Indonesian Feed Grains Tariff Rate Quota** that included [GTA Fact Sheet](#) Number 16 which provides information on the TRQ process that may be relevant to assist Indonesian grain buyers including the volumes and the steps required to access the TRQ. The Fact Sheet Number 16 has been translated into Bahasa Indonesian to assist Australian exporters in discussion with their Indonesian customers.
- [Member Update 16 of 20](#) - The release of the 2020/21 **Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances document**. This document represents a critical guidance document for participants in the Australian grain industry. It provides advice on post-harvest chemicals registered for use in the treatment of stored grain in Australia and the MRLs that apply to those chemicals on grains marketed in Australia and overseas.

GTA TRADING STANDARDS APPROVED FOR 2020/21

- The annual process of GTA Member and industry engagement for the 2020/21 GTA Trading Standards completed on the 23rd June 2020 with the **GTA Board approving the Trading Standards** that had been endorsed by the Trading Standards Technical Committee.
- As per standard protocol a **Member Update will be released on August 1st** to launch the 2020/21 GTA Trading Standards to industry.
- GTA would like to thank and acknowledge the volunteer members of the GTA Trading Standards Committee for their input, enthusiasm, and commitment to this important industry process.
- GTA and the grain industry is indebted to the selfless volunteers who dedicate so much of their time and passion into ensuring the Trading Standards and the process to review and challenge the Standards are available to industry.
- For GTA Member reference Member Updates [No.1 of 20](#) and [No.9 of 20](#) sought feedback from industry on potential changes to Trading Standards (Standards) for the coming 2020/21 season. Feedback was received from a range of industry sectors on the proposed changes and a range of other issues.



RAMs ARE COMING - PLANT EXPORT AUTHORISED OFFICER

- GTA Members involved in the export supply chain may be aware DAWE introduced the Plant Export Authorised Officer model in August 2011. This model supports industry employers to appoint their employees as Authorised Officers (AOs).
- AOs are trained and accredited individuals who are **authorised** as Australian Government **officials** under the Export Control Act 1982, to perform specific export inspection and certification functions (job functions) in accordance with Australian export legislation. For example, a container packing facility will normally have a number of staff members who have been trained by DAWE to represent them as AOs to inspect and certify grain as export compliant.
- Grain AOs come under the Plant Export AO model of which there are 1,400 trained industry AOs across Australia.
- DAWE after an independent review of the AO model in 2018 recommended the introduction of **Regional Assurance Managers (RAMs)** to provide **support to industry AOs** and help them provide feedback about the model and its operations.
- Following a pilot of 3 RAMs in early 2019, most members of the plant export industry agreed that the pilot RAMs provided:
 - greater levels of support and advice to industry AOs;
 - greater interaction between industry and the department;
 - assistance for industry to meet regulatory requirement; and
 - a voice for industry AOs as a group.
- RAMs and their service will be delivered in a staged way over the next 4 years to 2023. DAWE are currently employing 9 RAMs and will increase this to 12 during 2020.
- RAMs will achieve their objectives by regular on-site visits to grain export registered establishments. During these visits, the RAM will:
 - discuss any upcoming policy; or
 - technical changes.
 - Help identify potential operational risks; and
 - Discuss any issues;
- 92 RAM visits were undertaken between January and March 2020 to registered Export Establishments that employ industry AOs.

UPCOMING EVENTS

14 OCTOBER 2020

SAVE THE DATE - NWPGP Conference
(online event)

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

MEETING MARKET REQUIREMENTS

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



TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES DURING COVID-19



TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

WEBINARS



- GTA Members are reminded that GTA training courses are operating during this period as on-line training. This provides an opportunity for GTA Members and staff to attend on-line training that may have found difficult to attend in the past.
- On-Line training provides more flexibility and saves on participants time ,budget including travel costs. As a result, GTA is seeing strong numbers attending training and have noticed a strong increase of participants based in regional locations.
- GTA Members are encouraged to consider the advantages of on-line training as an option for staff that normally would not have the opportunity to travel to attend traditional face to face training.

[REGISTER HERE](#)