



## GTA Presents Australia's NTM Report to 2018 IGC Conference

GTA CEO, Pat O'Shannassy, presented the Australian grain industry NTM (Non-Tariff trade Measures) report to global grain leaders and governments at the 2018 International Grains Council (IGC) Conference in London. GTA called for a free and open global rules based grain trade system. This includes regional trade agreements, supported by a scientific and objective approach to NTMs through Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures. GTA noted that mutual benefits were needed for strong and open trading relationships, and that an open competitive environment was important to provide value to all parts of the supply chain.

The GTA presentation was part of an International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC) led panel for the 55 IGC government members, focussing on opportunities to promote expansion, openness, and investment in the grains sector. The audience included the governments of Australia, Argentina, Russia, South Africa, Kenya and USA, as well as grain trade companies and industry groups.

The speakers on the IGTC panel (pictured) included Gary C. Martin, President, International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), Gerald Masila, Executive Director, Eastern Africa Grain Council (EAGC), Amy Reynolds, Senior Economist, International Grains Council (IGC), Javier Ocampo, Trade Policy Analyst, World Trade Organization (WTO) and Pat O'Shannassy, CEO, Grain Trade Australia (GTA).



"Free Trade Agreements and World Trade Organisation reforms have delivered a reduction in tariff rates across a range of export markets, resulting in the expansion of export market opportunities and growth of the Australian grain industry," said Mr O'Shannassy.

"While tariffs and quotas still exist and restrict access in some markets, in general they are now less restrictive and harmful for the grains sector than the emerging and growing NTMs that affect trade."

"NTMs have been found to affect virtually all grains. They impact on the production base of crop production, that being they exist with trading all crops. Many of the NTMs identified were Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures, in particular Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs).

GTA's presentation also highlighted existing NTMs such as restrictive import permits and certification requirements, which negatively affect the costs and risks associated with global grain trade, while emerging NTMs

include regulation of biotechnology and innovative plant breeding products.

It was acknowledged NTMs do include legitimate regulations for the trade in grain, including managing countries biosecurity, but GTA and IGTC called for NTMs to be based on scientific data and risk based assessments to avoid the potential to create highly trade restrictive and harmful NTMs that result in higher risk for exporters, higher prices to consumers and lower returns to farmers.

The impacts of NTMs can be broad and include higher operational and commercial risk for the industry, increased risk of trade bans or restrictions and increased cost of compliance.

The Australian Grain Industry NTM report team included representatives from across industry, led by Grain Trade Australia, GrainGrowers, Grains Industry Market Access Forum (GIMAF), GRDC and was supported by DAWR. The IGTC session followed an address given by IGTC President Gary C. Martin at the closed-door IGC governance Session held on the sidelines of the IGC conference.

## **GTA attends IGTC Strategy Session with Global Grain Trade Leaders in London**



GTA attended the IGTC Strategy Session held in London in June 2018. GTA is a key member of IGTC and actively supports and promotes IGTCs work to facilitate global grain trade.

IGTC members travelled from Argentina, Australia, Canada, EU, Kenya, Mexico, Singapore, Ukraine and USA to participate in the IGTC's Strategy Session. Discussions were held on active IGTC case files including:

- Cartagena biosafety protocol,
- Plant breeding innovation,
- Low level presence,
- Electronic trading documentation,
- Maximum residue limits,
- Phytosanitary control measures, and
- International Standard on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)

GTA actively participates in each IGTC working group and leads the working group on the ISPM. GTA is also a member of the IGTC Management Committee.

Participants at the IGTC Strategy session made recommendations for continued IGTC activity in these areas, particularly on communication with governments on grain trade requirements as well as other stakeholders in the grain value chain.

GTA is a strong and active supporter of IGTC, and sees demonstrable benefits of advocating on a multi-lateral basis on issues of global concern to the grain trade. IGTC is acknowledged globally as a pragmatic voice for the global grains industry. Its achievements are many which are low visibility/high impact issues for global grain flows.

## **NWPGP Grain Storage and Protection Conference 2018**

- The annual Grain Storage and Protection Conference of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) was held in Melbourne on 19-20 June 2018. Over 125 delegates attended the annual 2 day conference to hear from a range of presenters on updates related to chemical use and its effectiveness, insect resistance, changing supply chain storage conditions, market access issues and our compliance with meeting those market needs.
- The Chair of GTA Peter Reading opened the conference advising it was pleasing to see the continued good work of all in the supply focusing efforts on promotion of safe chemical use in a manner that complies with market and regulatory requirements.
- Presenters included a range of researchers who provided an update on the latest storage practices and measures to control stored grain insects. A number of issues were discussed where ongoing work is required and several Working Groups were formed to address those matters over the ensuing 12 months.
- Overall the conference was highly successful, due in part to the valued contribution of several sponsors.
- The outcomes of the conference with agreed actions will be provided to industry shortly and also made available to industry on the [GTA website NWPGP page](#).

## The revised Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice

- The revised Australian Industry Code of Practice (Code) has now been released and can be found on the [GTA Website](#).
- All GTA Members should have received copies of the Code. Please contact the GTA office if you require additional copies.
- It is important to thank the GTA members who were part of the Industry Working Group providing valuable skills and direction in the review of the Code.
- GTA would also like to thank DAWR for provision of funding for this review task and its endorsement of the Code.

## Upcoming Events

- **GTA Advisory & Compliance Workshop**
  - Advisory & Compliance Workshop will be held at the Crown Promenade in Melbourne on the 31 July 2018.
  - [Click here to register.](#)
  - [Click here to view the program.](#)
- **AGIC Australia**
  - AGIC Australia will be returning to the Crown Promenade in Melbourne on 1 & 2 August 2018. [Click here to register.](#)

## Inaugural Meeting of new GTA Technical Committee

- The first meeting of the Information Technology Advisory Committee was held in June, 2018. This Committee has the objective to:
  - Consult and liaison with stakeholders across industry (local and global) on the impacts and opportunities of existing and emerging technology;
  - Review cross business grain industry process and transactional issues to improve the facilitation of trade;
  - Research options and opportunities to share information and learnings across industry;
  - Perform collaborative research, review the impact of new technology on the facilitation of trade;
  - and potential collaborative solutions to address such impacts; and
  - Seek potential collaborative opportunities to improve facilitation of trade such shared resource and data options.
- An outcome of the initial meeting is to direct GTA to review opportunities and benefits of the development of an electronic Commodity Vendor Declaration to replace the current paper based version.

## Improving Industry Export Performance

- An industry working group facilitated by GTA is working with DAWR, shipping lines and container terminals to rectify and improve performance.
- Focus of the working group is reviewing the Standards for, and access to food grade containers, forecasting container demand, and the reduction of errors in the completion of paperwork.
- A further meeting is to be held in July 2018 with the objective of establishing a full review of the issues and agreed actions to improve export performance.
- A key part of the activity is to develop a full understanding of the end to end process and the key interface points between all participants. This will be detailed in a process map of the steps associated with the export of grain in containers. Once completed and agreed, this information will be available on the GTA website for member reference.