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Media Release: For Immediate Release

“Chemical compliance critical to Grain industry reputation”

The world is becoming increasingly focused on chemical residues and the impact they may have in the food value chain. This is leading to greater scrutiny on agricultural practices in general, and more specifically, the use of chemicals according to label directions and the management of chemical residues in grain by stakeholders along the supply chain. This was the key message at a recent Grains Industry Chemical Compliance Information Day in Melbourne facilitated by The National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) and Grain Trade Australia (GTA).

Mr Pat O’Shannassy, CEO of GTA noted “ the Australian grain industry has built a strong reputation over many years of meeting market requirements for chemical residues. However, our reputation can erode quickly if we fail to provide grain within the required specifications and chemical Maximum Residue Limits (MRL). This has the potential to impact the whole of industry and potentially lead to the loss of valuable markets.”

Industry experts challenged the grain industry to continue to manage this risk, to protect and further enhance the reputation of the Australian grain supply chain. Mr O’Shannassy said “while it’s a significant risk, it is also an opportunity to improve and strengthen our product and reputation with more focus on education and awareness, quality management systems. This will allow Australian grain to remain competitive in the world market.”

Delegates attended from across the sector including APVMA, Department of Agriculture, chemical registrants, producers and their advisors, trading companies, storage operators, road and rail freight operators, researchers, and consumers.

The Information Day reaffirmed the reputation of the Australian grain value chain relies on management of the market access risks such as those associated with the use of chemicals. “It is a complex supply chain made up of many participants including farmers, their advisors, transport, storage and trading businesses, domestic end users, ports, shipping lines and the numerous local governments, state governments and federal government departments and agencies “Mr O’Shannassy said.

“GTA and NWPGP will work with government, producer groups, industry and our members to progress several opportunities highlighted at the workshop that may assist compliance. This is an important task as we continue to ensure the grain, we supply to customers is fully compliant with importing country requirements including MRLs.”

The Chemical Compliance Information Day was held on June 3, 2019 and was hosted by the NWPGP and GTA. The annual Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC), organized by GTA will be held on 31st July and 1st August 2019 in Melbourne.

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Media Contact:	About GTA
Mr Pat O’Shannassy CEO, Grain Trade Australia Tel: 02 9235 2155	Grain Trade Australia is a national trade organisation and has over 270 member organisations ranging from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies. The role of GTA is to provide a framework across Industry to facilitate and promote the trade of Australian grain. GTA plays its part in the value chain by providing core products of Trading Standards, Contracts, Trade Rules, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Professional Development and advocacy for Market Access. GTA’s grain trading standards and contracts are used across the Australian grain industry. GTA Members operate within all sectors of the grain industry in Australia, as well as related commercial activities such as banking, communications, grain advisory services and professional services. www.graintrade.org.au

Photos of Conference Delegates and Mr O’Shannassy are available upon request