

**MEDIA RELEASE – For Immediate Release**

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**International experts headline the 2017 Australian Grains Industry Conference (AGIC)**

A stellar line-up of international and local CEOs and experts provides unparalleled opportunities for delegates attending the Australian Grains Industry Conference, to be held in Melbourne 2-3 August 2017. The conference will be addressed by Assistant Minister for Agriculture & Water Resources, Senator Anne Ruston, and Shadow Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Joel Fitzgibbon.

Pat O'Shannassy, CEO of Grain Trade Australia and one of the host organisations, said the conference is the time for anyone involved in grain industry to hear from and meet with leading commentators, who will provide insights into market trends and what's on the horizon for grains and oilseeds. This includes:

- Jeffery McPike, McDonald Pelz Global Commodities for grains
- Thomas Mielke, OilWorld for oilseeds

The global geopolitical environment and its impact on global trade flows is at an interesting time with a Trump Government, Brexit and increasing presence of China. Leading political commentator from the US, Sara Wyant, will provide unique insights into what the Trump Presidency and administration means for global agricultural policy and trade.

The AGIC theme this year focuses on quality and whether this is "Australia's trump card in global markets". Australia sits on the doorstep of Asia with its rapidly growing and increasingly wealthy population. Hear from:

- Luke Mason, Head of Grains for Concordia Agritrading Pte Ltd (A member of COFCO International) about opportunities for *feed wheat/grains in South East Asia*
- Summit Gupta, from McDonald Pelz Global Commodities India about the *future import demand from India for grains and pulses*
- Erlend Ek, Trade and Agriculture Research Manager for China Policy about how *policy developments in China are driving growth grain imports*

And from leading Australian R&D investors and companies hear how Australia is supporting its quality platform. This includes:

- Steve Jefferies, Managing Director of Australia's largest R&D investor Grains Research & Development Corporation on a *new direction for grains R&D in Australia*
- Haydn Kuchel, Chief Executive Officer & Head of Breeding for Australia's leading breeding company Australian Grain Technologies on *breeding to serve a sophisticated grains industry*





TV personality and hard hitting interviewer Emma Alberici, from Lateline, returns to quiz industry CEOs including Tim Hart, Ridley; Brendan Bourke, Port of Melbourne; and Graham Turley, ANZ.

Held annually, AGIC is hosted by Grain Trade Australia, the Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia. The 'must attend' event on the grains industry calendar, it is recognised as the premier grains industry conference.

Conference Manager Rosemary Richards says this year's event is expected to attract around 1000 delegates from the Australian and global grains industry to hear the latest information, discuss issues impacting the sector and network with colleagues, clients and friends.

Find out more about AGIC at [www.ausgrainsconf.com](http://www.ausgrainsconf.com), #AGIC2017, @AUSGRAINCONF

