

AUSTRALIAN **GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION** CONFERENCE

Meeting Market Requirements

7-8 JUNE 2017
RYDGES
186 EXHIBITION STREET
MELBOURNE

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



2017 AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

This File Note lists outcomes agreed by the 2017 Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference, hosted by the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) in Melbourne on 7-8 June 2017. Agreed outcomes, major discussion points and findings are listed numerically in no order of priority.

There were 136 attendees at the meeting, representing all sectors of the grain supply chain.

To provide comment on this document or to comment on any NWPGP related matter, please contact GTA via email at admin@graintrade.org.au.

A. Official Welcome

The Chairman of Grain Trade Australia (GTA) Peter Reading opened the meeting. GTA provided a commitment to continue to support the activities of the NWPGP, including:

- Administration of the NWPGP and organising the annual meeting which continues to be strongly supported by industry and government; and
- Promotion of the NWPGP and its deliberations through various industry publications and on the GTA website.

The Chairman commented on the spread of participants from all areas of the supply chain, including international delegates, noting it was critical that all participants work together to ensure Australian grain maintains its quality reputation and integrity. He also emphasised the importance of technical aspects to trade and market access.

B. Continued Role of the National Working Party on Grain Protection

The meeting acknowledged the assistance of GTA and it was agreed to continue the NWPGP annual meetings using the administrative support offered by GTA.

A number of administrative tasks were discussed and **agreed**:

- 1) That the 2017 meeting outcomes be documented and distributed to all attendees for comment.
- 2) That the outcomes of the 2017 meeting be placed on the GTA website and forwarded by GTA to all invitees, attendees and the wider industry via a GTA Member Update. See <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>.
- 3) The NWPGP Strategic Working Group (SWG) is to develop the agenda and make arrangements for the 2018 NWPGP annual meeting, to be held in Melbourne.
- 4) A note of thanks was provided to:
 - i. GTA staff for their continued assistance in administering the NWPGP; and
 - ii. All sponsors of the 2017 NWPGP meeting.

It was further **agreed**:

- 5) That the SWG continues to operate and provide oversight of NWPGP activities.
- 6) That the SWG liaise with the GRDC (and other industry parties as required) on any matter relating to activities discussed under the auspices of the NWPGP.

C. Communication & Extension Activities

The meeting was provided with details of a range of communication and extension activities conducted and supported by various industry organisations such as the Plant Biosecurity CRC:

- The GRDC continues to fund extension staff in a range of activities covering grain storage, chemical use and grain hygiene. Extension material is developed on various topics and widely distributed as required.
- Trade advice notices (TAN) and similar documents that foreshadow changes to MRLs or other food safety changes (export and domestic) are circulated for comment by the Chair NWPGP.
- The Smart Biosecurity Science paper on alternative structures for the PBCRC has been published. The main theme includes a new PBCRC (or similar). It noted that regarding plant biosecurity research, “doing nothing” is not an option as the PBCRC winds up in June 2018.
- The Grains Farm Biosecurity Program outlined an opportunity for industry to work together to gather data on the presence/absence of biosecurity aspects throughout the supply chain.

It was **agreed**:

- 7) Industry should respond to the Chair NWPGP or directly to regulatory authorities re TANs/similar chemical issues otherwise the Chair’s or limited views will be provided on behalf of industry.
- 8) GTA and other industry leaders are urged to contact Minister Joyce’s office directly to voice support for an enduring (not time limited) PBCRC or similar structure.
- 9) The PBCRC is requested to deliver an “Impact Report” on their (stored product) research outcomes at NWPGP 2018.

D. Regulatory Update

The meeting was provided with an update on a range of matters dealing with Codex and other international and domestic regulations:

- The significant input in Codex matters from Government and the benefits of that input to industry was acknowledged.
- Several key Australian export markets are in the process of reviewing their MRLs.
- Australia continues to provide input into overseas country regulatory issues through the Government to Government mechanism. A key participant in providing the Australian position in those reviews is the National Residue Survey (NRS), supported by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).
- Co-ordinated industry input via the NWPGP into developing the Australian Government position continues to be vital.
- The Codex update included the recommendation for adoption of revised crop groupings for cereals, oilseeds and pulses. The APVMA policy in this area was also outlined.
- The progress of FSANZ development of a low level MRL policy to account for inadvertent residues of pesticides in foods was outlined. FSANZ have established 25 low level MRLs and are working with the APVMA to establish more.
- Progress of the capacity building project lead by FSANZ to promote harmonisation of MRLs for pesticides in the Asia-Pacific region was outlined.
- A new Global IESTI process would effectively reduce several MRLs and significantly impact trade. For example, Fenitrothion MRLs could be reduced 7-fold.

It was **agreed**:

- 10) That the meeting fully endorses support for Australia to be represented on the IESTI working group, specifically APVMA.
- 11) That the meeting fully endorses the continuation of the GRDC funded project enabling the NWPGP Chairman on behalf of the Australian grains industry:
 - i. To provide input to and attend as required, international forums such as Codex; and
 - ii. To actively liaise with national regulatory organisations such as the APVMA and NRS on chemical related matters.
- 12) That through the GRDC funded project, the NWPGP Chairman will:
 - i. Continue to liaise with industry to provide input to the NRS on matters relating to chemicals raised through SPS and other international processes; and
 - ii. Continue working with NRS to facilitate the establishment and or maintenance of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.

E. Insect Infestation Trends, Resistance & Grain Treatments

Insect species detected:

- An overview of the insect species present in the last year was provided. This outlined where those insects were detected by region and location, including on-farm and in the central storage system.

Stored grain treatments applied:

- No significant departures from prior year treatments have occurred or been required.
- Research continues on small scale use of Nitrogen, especially the benefits for use on-farm where there are appropriately sealed storages.
- The use of Diatomaceous earth as a structural application continues to be promoted.

Insect Resistance:

- An update on the distribution and frequency of insect resistance in Australia was provided.
- Future emerging threats with insect resistance were highlighted.
- A range of resistance management strategies using specific tools and chemicals were provided.
- Fumigant and grain protectant treatments continue to be rotated for phosphine resistance management as per the Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy.
- The Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy has been updated based on a review by a Working Group.

It was **agreed**:

- 13) The revised Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy be distributed to industry and placed on the GTA website. Industry should provide comments on that strategy where required.
- 14) Industry use of that strategy be encouraged in order to protect the currently available tools for insect control.

F. Storage Update

The meeting was advised that:

- The use of aeration on-farm continues to be encouraged given its benefits for managing grain quality and assisting insect control.
- On-farm storage continues to increase, with a range of storage types used this season given the extensive tonnage harvested.

It was **agreed**:

- 15) All industry is encouraged to communicate the advantages and disadvantages of storage of grain on-farm during the remainder of the year.

G. Meeting Market Requirements

A range of topics was covered under this item. These included:

- The in-crop use of Glyphosate for crop topping (particularly in barley) has widespread regulatory/MRL/market access implications.
- The fraudulent use of certificates referencing NRS results.

National Residue Survey (NRS) Results:

- An outline of the testing program and results from the last year was provided.
- Compliance with MRLs remains at a very high level (99.9% for bulk export), as per recent seasons.
- Violations of pre-harvest chemicals remain a concern and the chemicals of note were highlighted.
- Where issues have arisen (e.g., Australian MRLs exceeded), trace-back has occurred to determine causes.
- An update on a number of reviews was provided:
 - China – In the process of harmonising MRLs with Codex by 2020.
 - South Korea – the Positive List System has been adopted for some commodities. Commodities remaining will be completed by December 2018. The NRS continues to work with industry on understanding the implications for Australian exports.

- Taiwan – Taiwanese authorities have requested Australia to identify gaps in MRLs for a number of commodities and work in this area continues.
- Japan – Continue to work on developing an MRL for fenitrothion in canola.
- Vietnam – In process of reviewing MRLs but intend to align with Codex.
- India – Reviewing their MRL systems.
- Indonesia – Australian NRS system is recognised by Indonesia.
- Gulf countries – Extensive changes to MRLs have been made but are moving closer to Codex.
- NRS Grain Program Review
 - Due to increased sampling requirements and financial pressures, the Program’s priorities have been reviewed and modified.
 - Changes include an increased focus on herbicide screening for some commodities and a reduction in testing for some chemicals where it is no longer warranted.
 - Longer term there will be a focus on increased consignment testing of both bulk and container grain.

Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues

- In 2017, Codex has scheduled 485 new MRLs for adoption.
- Notes on key grain chemicals:
 - Chlorpyrifos-methyl – As no new data was expected to be provided, the Committee will defer to the 2009 review and is expected to adopt those MRLs.
 - Phosphine – Review deferred to 2021.
 - Deltamethrin – new MRL for rapeseed.
 - Methoprene – new MRL for oilseeds.
 - Carbendazim – Periodic review scheduled for 2017.

In-Crop Use of Glyphosate

- Working Group has been formed and has met to address this issue.
- A range of industry stakeholders, including chemical registrants are involved in trials and planning arrangements.
- The outcomes of the permit application and approval and harvest arrangements was discussed.

It was **agreed**:

- 16) That the meeting fully endorses the NRS Grains program including the recently proposed changes to the program.
- 17) That the meeting supports NRS and GTA developing a communication strategy on requirements for participation in the NRS program by the container trade.
- 18) That the meeting fully supports:
 - i. The activities of the NRS relating to pesticide residues, MRLs, and relevant market requirements, including those raised through WTO SPS and other international processes.
 - ii. The current NRS responsibility of providing market access advice and action to facilitate the establishment of overseas MRLs as requested by industry.
- 19) To continue to support the requirement for industry to outturn grain containing protectants at half the MRL for all existing grain protectants (ROL – recommended outturn limit).
- 20) The Post-Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances document for 2016/17:
 - i. Be revised as per the outcomes of the 2017 NWPGP meeting via liaison with the NRS and GPA; and
 - ii. Is placed on the GTA website and distributed to industry.

- 21) That the meeting fully endorses the progress of the working group to further revise the Protocol to address in-crop chemical use, using Glyphosate for crop topping use as an initial topic.
- 22) As Industry does not support use of reference to NRS results on marketing certificates, a Working Group be formed to address the issue.

Results of the 2017 Market Trends Survey:

- More industry participation in the survey in its current form is warranted.
- The large crop for 2016/17 has resulted in an increase in reporting of chemical misuse and insect infestation. Insect infestation and MRL violations continue to be a market concern.
- A working group has been established to develop a database of market gaps and export market issues. The database would include Australian and international information for comparison. This would replace the existing manually compiled Market GAP list. The aim is to complete the database by end of 2017.

It was **agreed**:

- 23) That the feedback from the survey in terms of chemical MRL issues is to be included in the various Australian and overseas country reviews as required, including the Market GAP list.
- 24) That the SWG liaise with GTA (who developed and administered the survey):
 - i. To further refine the survey for 2018.
 - ii. To seek mechanisms for greater industry participation in the survey.
- 25) That a vote of thanks is to be provided to GTA for co-ordination of this Market Trends Survey task in 2017.
- 26) That a working group be established to develop a database of market gaps and export market issues. This would include a review of the current market trends survey.

H. Specific Chemical Issues

Phosphine

- An update on progress with modernisation of the aluminium phosphide label was provided. A draft label has been circulated to interested members of the NWPGP and their comments incorporated into the draft document.
- Further research supporting modernisation of the label was presented during the Conference.

It was **agreed**:

- 27) That a Working Group be formed that includes chemical registrants to review and progress the next steps required for changing and adoption of the revised phosphine label.
- 28) That the APVMA be approached to consider relevant issues of residues and venting as part of the revised label.

Research Highlights

The meeting was provided with a summary and updates of progress in a number of research areas:

- The development of a new artificial, silica-based grain additive ('Davren') for protection of grain against insect infestation.
- Update of the NWPGP Resistance Management Strategy including background on resistance development in protectants and phosphine.
- Development of synergists for phosphine, including sulfuryl fluoride.
- Phosphine fumigation in small farm storages, implications for control of phosphine-resistant rusty grain beetle and the need to modify dosage/fumigation time on the label.
- Venting of phosphine fumigations – possible need to extend ventilation periods on the phosphine label.
- Field trials of new fumigation protocols for disinfestation of grain with sulfuryl fluoride.
- Practical use of insect traps for predicting and estimating insect infestation.
- Management of the storage of various pulses and oilseeds.
- Co-fumigation with phosphine and sulfuryl fluoride to control phosphine-resistant insects.
- Use and advantages of visible near infra-red hyperspectral imaging to identify Khapra beetle.
- Presence of phosphorous in grain after phosphine fumigation.
- Synergism between nitrogen and phosphine.
- Use of nitrogen for grain protection and quality management on farm and in central storages.

It was **agreed**:

- 29) That the Australian Oilseeds Federation and Pulse Australia be approached to identify research required for storage of various pulses and oilseeds, with a view to developing and/or updating the existing Fact Sheets or these commodities.