

# AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

19 & 20 JUNE 2018  
RYDGES  
186 EXHIBITION STREET  
MELBOURNE

## Meeting Market Requirements

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



### 2018 AUSTRALIAN GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

This File Note lists outcomes agreed by the 2018 Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference, hosted by the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) in Melbourne on 19-20 June 2018. Agreed outcomes, major discussion points and findings are listed numerically in no order of priority.

There were over 130 attendees at the Conference, 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](mailto:admin@graintrade.org.au).

*During the Conference Working Groups were formed to address a number of specific issues. Industry stakeholders who have not already done so are invited to nominate for membership of those Working Groups by emailing [gerardmcmullen@optusnet.com.au](mailto:gerardmcmullen@optusnet.com.au) and stating the applicable Working Group name.*

#### 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 number of participants representing all areas of the supply chain, including international delegates, noting it was pleasing Australia continues to maintain its reputation as a supplier of safe grain that meets both customer and regulatory requirements in relation to chemical use. He also noted the work of various sectors of the supply chain in their efforts to continue to provide the necessary tools to enable trade and market access for our export grain.

## 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 2018 meeting outcomes be documented and distributed to all attendees.
- 2) That the outcomes of the 2018 meeting be placed on the GTA website and forwarded by GTA to all invitees, attendees and the wider grain industry via a GTA Member Update. See <http://www.graintrade.org.au/nwpgp>.
- 3) The NWPGP Strategic Working Group (SWG) be responsible for developing the agenda and making arrangements for the 2019 NWPGP annual meeting, to be held in Melbourne. It was emphasised that industry suggestions on any topics to be included on the agenda were welcome.
- 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 2018 NWPGP meeting, especially the Gold Sponsors as listed on the meeting agenda.

It was further **agreed**:

- 5) That the SWG continue to operate and provide oversight of NWPGP activities.

## 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 and the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC):

- The GRDC continues to invest in projects in a range of activities covering grain storage, chemical use and grain hygiene on a case by case basis where value is added to industry. Extension material is developed on various topics and widely distributed as required.
- A large number of storage workshops for growers have been held throughout the year, with good grower attendance and feedback.
- While activities have been undertaken, there is an opportunity for further engagement with all silo manufacturers and silo importers to explain industry requirements.
- The Plant Biosecurity CRC winds up at the end of June 2018. The wide scope of its activities and outcomes of research were presented to the meeting. This included advice on the impact assessment of research funded and undertaken by the Plant Biosecurity CRC (and the former National Plant Biosecurity CRC).
- A significant amount of stored grain reference material has been generated by the former CSIRO Stored Grain Research Laboratory (SGRL) also via NWPGP activities (through particular industry stakeholders, research organisations etc.). Much of this material was provided to the Chair of the NWPGP.
- Advocacy and the role of the agronomy and chemical re-seller sector was discussed, with agreement for members of the NWPGP to continue to work with that sector to address any information gaps.

It was **agreed**:

- 6) Industry should continue to respond to the Chair of the NWPGP or directly to regulatory authorities regarding any comments on Trade Advice Notices or similar chemical issues.
- 7) A Working Group be formed to consider options for use of research material from SGRL and other work generated through NWPGP and associated research activities.

## 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.
- Applications under Import Tolerance processes are ongoing for several key Australian export markets and commodities. Industry will be advised as applications are processed.
- 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) and the Trade and Market Access division.
- Co-ordinated industry input via the NWPGP into developing the Australian Government position continues to be vital.
- A number of initiatives being undertaken by the APVMA to improve their operations were outlined.
- An overview of the NRS laboratory performance evaluation program was provided.
- A Codex update included advice on outcomes of the 2018 CCPR meeting, including the recommendation for adoption of 386 Codex MRLs.
- Progress on the harmonisation of MRLs for pesticides in the Asia-Pacific region was outlined.
- The ongoing international work of the NRS in terms of seeking to address the issue of “missing MRLs” and associated topics was outlined.
- An update on a number of market reviews was provided, including:
  - China – In the process of harmonising MRLs with Codex.
  - South Korea – the Positive List System Stage 2 is due to be completed by December 2018. The implications for industry were discussed in detail.
  - Taiwan – The application for various Import Tolerances was discussed and implications for industry outlined.
  - Codex – various chemicals are due for review, some with no manufacturer support at this time.

It was **agreed**:

- 8) 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.
- 9) 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 included advice 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.
- 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.
- 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 Chemical Resistance Management Strategy.

## **F. Storage Update**

The meeting was advised that:

- On-farm storage continues to increase, with growers in general being more informed in grain husbandry.
- Monitoring of grain in storages on a frequent basis (i.e., monthly) was highlighted as a key strategy for maintenance of grain quality and freedom from live stored grain insects.
- A number of growers are installing sealed storages that comply with the Australian Standard AS2628, enabling fumigation with phosphine for insect control.
- In sectors of the supply chain, including on-farm, a number of large silos are being installed that do not meet this Australian Standard, requiring an insect management strategy other than fumigation.

It was **agreed**:

- 10) That a Working Group be formed to review the advice to industry on the suitability of storage design types.

## **G. Meeting Market Requirements**

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

- An update on the Working Group addressing data requirements for in-crop use of Glyphosate for crop topping (particularly in barley).
- An outline of the research work being undertaken by industry to identify non-tariff measures and how to improve market access. This included:
  - An overview of the Market Access Database which will be released to industry in 2018 to capture market access issues, thereby replacing the prior Market Trends Survey.
  - An update on Australian Government departments working in this area to assist industry.

National Residue Survey (NRS) Results:

- An outline of the results from the program from 2017/18 to date was provided.
- Compliance with MRLs continues to be at a very high level as per recent seasons.
- Changes to the residue screen have occurred following industry consultation.

It was **agreed**:

- 11) That the meeting fully endorses the NRS Grains program including the recent changes to the program.
- 12) That a Working Group be formed to consider options for reporting of NRS results using a “trend analysis” format as presented to the annual meeting.
- 13) That the meeting supports the use by industry of the Market Access Database as a replacement for the Market Trends Survey.
- 14) That a Working Group be formed to review the adequacy of current information available to industry regarding managing chemical violations, and recommend modifications to that material as applicable.
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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).
- 17) The Post-Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances document for 2018/19:
  - i. Be revised as per the outcomes of the 2018 NWPGP meeting via liaison with the NRS and GPA; and
  - ii. Is placed on the GTA website and distributed to industry.

## **H. Specific Chemical Issues**

Phosphine

- An update on the need and options to alter the phosphine label was outlined.
- Research supporting the change to the label was presented.
- Issues associated with industry compliance with the label, including venting of fumigant were discussed.

It was **agreed**:

- 18) That a Working Group be re-formed to progress changes to the phosphine label.
- 19) That a Working Group be formed to progress development of revised directions to consider venting issues, via liaison with the APVMA.

In-Crop Chemicals

- Detection of chemicals used in-crop and through grain transport remain a concern and the chemicals of note were highlighted.

It was **agreed**:

- 20) That two Working Groups be formed to continue developing solutions for industry management of these issues.

## I. Research Highlights

During discussion on the various topics outlined above, the meeting was provided with a summary and updates of progress in a number of research areas related to grain storage and insect control. Other topics included:

- The progress of development of a new silica-based grain additive ('Davren') for protection of grain against insect infestation.
- An update of the Insect Resistance Management Strategy, including current insect resistance issues across Australia.
- The use of sulfuryl fluoride as a break fumigant for phosphine.
- Control of phosphine-resistant rusty grain beetle.
- Latest findings on the use of effective aeration strategies.
- Co-fumigation with phosphine and carbon dioxide.