

# GRAINMatters



EDITION 88—AUGUST 2024

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Grain Merchandising—14-15 August 2024 \(Zoom\)](#)
- [Grain Trading Standards—20-21 August 2024 \(Dubbo\)](#)
- [Grain Trading for Non-Traders—22-23 August 2024 \(Zoom\)](#)
- [Member Event—Wagga Wagga—26 August](#)

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- [Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2024/25](#)
- [Port Terminal Access Code](#)
- [Indian Chick Pea Market—Supply Chain Challenges](#)
- [Agricultural Chemicals—Wins and Losses](#)
- [Australian Grain Industry Biosecurity Plan](#)
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## AGIC 2024

The Australian Grain Industry Conference (AGIC) celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Anniversary at an event filled program in Melbourne on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2024 and the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2024 under the industry theme of “Every Grain has a Silver Lining”.

What a fantastic celebration it was for the grain industry. The two-day program was fantastic providing a great mix of speakers and a real showcase for industry.

Speakers and delegates came from all points across the globe, and Australia and enthusiastically connected, networked and discussed issues & opportunities with colleagues, potential customers and suppliers. The opportunity to connect and communicate as an industry is so important in developing industry leadership and culture. This is how resilience and sustainability within an industry is fostered and achieved.

I must congratulate the industry and the AGIC Australia coordinators for delivering this conference and the dinner.



## Five Under 30

A big shout out to our ‘5 under 30’ crew who presented on the big stage at AGIC 2024. Whilst not all were available, three of the five provided the audience an account of the year and the experiences they enjoyed as the inaugural recipients of the program. The big message from the three was that it was a great experience and one that others should all aspire to. So please promote the program in your business and get any aspiring ‘under 30s’ to put their hand up!



## GOYDER'S LINE—CONTINUED

### Life Member Awards

It was with pride and immense pleasure that as Chair of GTA I was able to present GTA Life Membership to two special people who have made exceptional contributions to GTA and to the Australian grain industry. This is a rare privilege as there are currently only 4 life members of GTA, Chris Kelly, Merv May, Terry Deacon and Geoff Honey.



Our newest Life Members are:



*Geoff Farnsworth at AGIC Gala dinner*

**Geoff Farnsworth** – Geoff has been an integral part of GTA for over 20 years providing valuable legal counsel and advice to GTA Boards, Chairs and CEOs during that time. He has served with distinction on the GTA Board and many committees and is an integral part and is perhaps synonymous with GTA's self-regulatory framework that includes standard form contracts, Trade Rules and the Dispute Resolution system.



*Lyndon Asser at AGIC Gala dinner*

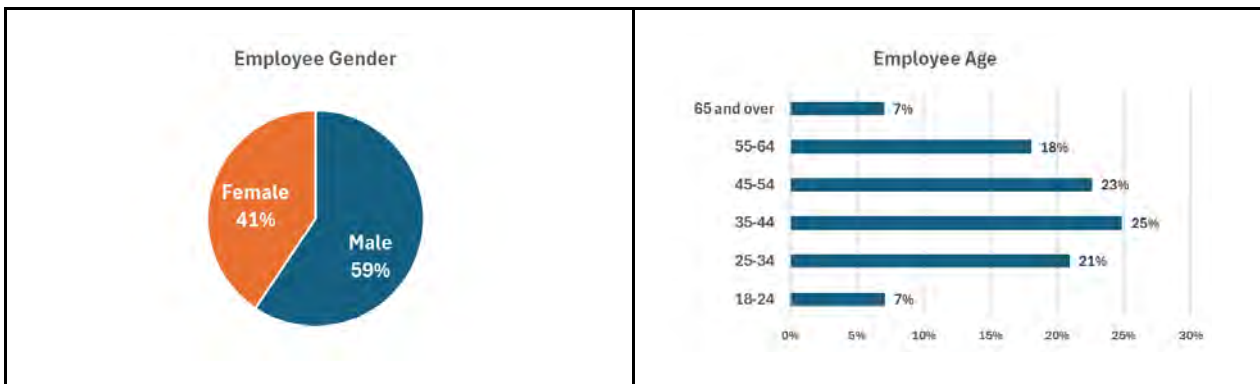
**Lyndon Asser** – Lyndon is a person of impeccable character and service to GTA. His conduct over a long career in this great industry embodies how we all should conduct ourselves in market with customers, amongst the trade and with our colleagues. A key milestone in the history of GTA and grains industry representation, was the integration of the Australian Grain Exporters Association (AGEA) with GTA in 2018. This integration led to GTA's inaugural sector council, the Australian Grain Exporters Council (AGEC).

Both Geoff and Lyndon's contribution to GTA and as a result to the grain industry is simply outstanding. We would NOT be the strong, capable and reputable organisation that is GTA today without their expertise, counsel and extraordinary contribution.

## DEI Member Survey

As discussed last month the GTA Board and management has a strong focus on promoting **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) within the grain industry** and to GTA members. To assist with understanding the current make-up of the grain trade industry workforce and how members are managing diversity, equity and inclusion in the workforce GTA recently conducted a survey on behalf of our members and the grain industry.

Whilst the data is still being further analysed and considered I am pleased to show you the initial findings from the survey that includes the split of workplace gender and the demographics of age within the companies that completed the survey:



Now that AGIC is over our thoughts start to turn to the upcoming harvest fast approaching in Queensland followed by Northern NSW. Fingers crossed for a kind finish to the season!

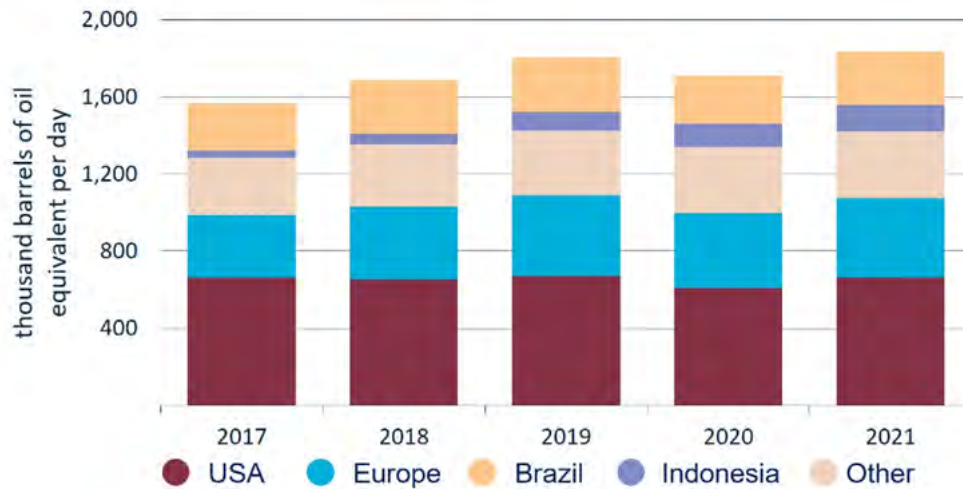
Yours sincerely,

**Andrew Goyder**  
**Chair—Grain Trade Australia**

Biofuels known as the low carbon liquid fuels (LCLF) industry has been identified as a priority as part of the Government’s Future Made in Australia agenda. LCLF can be produced sustainably from waste materials, biomass, or by combining hydrogen from low or zero carbon feedstocks (such as canola) with captured carbon dioxide.

- Some examples include Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), renewable diesel, and e-fuels.

**Figure 1: World biofuel consumption**



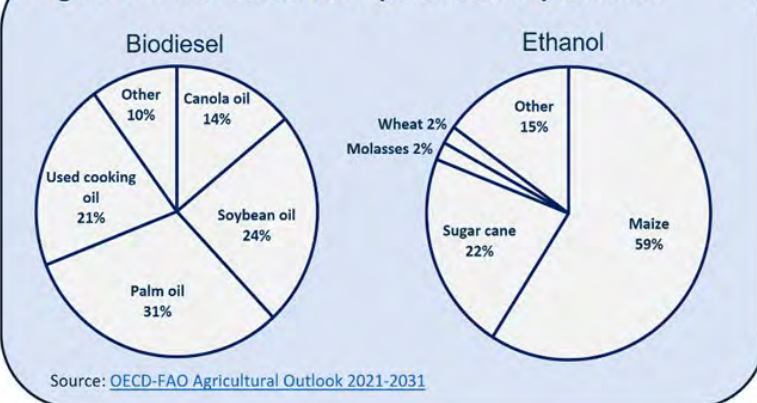
Sources: [BP Stats 2022](#), [IEA 2021](#)

LCLF are important as these fuels will play a key role in Australia’s net zero transformation, potential competitive advantage in Australian domestic LCLF production, and the need for public investment to align economic incentives with the national interest and unlock private investment at scale.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of effective policy to support the development of an Australian LCLF industry including focus on policy approaches to accelerate investment and incentivise efficient production of LCLFs. The Government is seeking informed views, data and analysis to inform the Government’s development of the Electricity and Energy Sector Plan and a Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap, and further regulatory impact analysis on the introduction of an LCLF mandate or other demand measures to support an LCLF industry.

GTA has provided a Submission into the LCLF Consultation focusing on providing:

**Figure 2: World feedstock crops for biofuel production**



Source: [OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2021-2031](#)

- a grain supply chain market overview
- a summary of the potential market impact of an LCLF industry
- a focus on the supply chain benefits and the need for further investment
- the need to ensure there is no change to current unfettered market conditions
- General support for the introduction of LCLF production and an offer to engage and assist as the consultation continues.

The Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2024/25 document has been released and is now available in the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) section of the [GTA website](#).

The purpose of the Post Harvest Chemical Usage Recommendations and Outturn Tolerances 2024/25 document is to provide advice on post-harvest chemicals registered for use in the treatment of stored grain in Australia and the MRLs that apply to those chemicals on grain marketed in Australia and overseas. This document also lists those chemicals registered for use as a structural treatment in Australia.

The NWPGP meets on an annual basis to discuss common issues related to chemical usage and market requirements for MRLs and to maintain and update this document for industry use.

This document refers to contact insecticides for registered post-harvest grain treatments and grain fumigants. All the compounds listed in this document may be applied to grain providing they are registered for that grain commodity by the APVMA and are used in accordance with applicable label directions. All treatments must also be conducted in accordance with State and Territory regulations where applicable. The treatment must also be compatible with permitted residue levels applicable for the market being supplied.

This document is for the use of grain industry participants and attempts to be as simple as possible in a complex commodity trading industry where import tolerances can differ significantly based on the end-use.

As all grain produced in Australia and all exported grain must comply with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) MRLs it is important that GTA members are aware and follow the recommendations contained in this industry document.

## INDIAN CHICK PEA MARKET—SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES

As a result of India announcing it will suspend import tariffs (established in 2018 at 66% on desi chickpeas imports) until 31 March 2025 the market is reacting with enthusiasm from the production sector and a large crop is expected to be produced in Australia in the states of Queensland and NSW. Media reports are talking of crops more than 1Mmt.

Demand from India always leads to concerns from those managing the supply chain and the export process as India creates several unique issues for exporters, including:

- Mandating the fumigation of grain by Methyl Bromide; and
- India has a Nil Tolerance for over 50 weed seeds.

Fumigation with methyl bromide in the grain container supply chain has been the focus of a GTA working group and DAFF. This group has been dealing with protocols and Guidance material on fumigating grain in containers with methyl bromide to meet importing country requirements. These proposed changes will impact the capacity of the supply chain.

GTA is also aware the EPA is also reviewing and making adjustments to methyl bromide fumigation arrangements in bulk export terminals. As each terminal fumigation licence is treated separately each seaport region and seaport terminal is impacted to different levels. These can impact the tonnage throughput at seaport terminals.

To ensure the upcoming shipping program works smoothly an industry and DAFF team is travelling to India in early August 2024 to work with the Indian government to seek to work towards minimising any issues with weed seeds and to discuss opportunities regarding fumigation.

Exporting to India always has its challenges!



## PORT TERMINAL ACCESS CODE

The Port Terminal Access (Bulk Wheat) Code of Conduct (**WPC**) is a mandatory industry code of conduct made under the Competition and Consumer Act 2010 (the CCA). The code commenced in 2014 and is undergoing a further review in 2024.

- It establishes an access arrangement to ensure exporters of bulk wheat have fair and transparent access to port terminal services.

The WPC is the most recent step in the **journey of deregulation** of Australia's wheat marketing arrangements, which resulted in the removal of the 'single desk' in 2008.

The 2024 review is essentially looking to determine whether:

- the code should remain the same,
- be changed or improved, or
- be repealed or expire (in 2024).

The Second review of the Bulk Wheat Code of Conduct by DAFF started on 19 October 2023, and addresses questions about its necessity, impact, and potential improvements.

In December 2023 the ACCC recommended allowing the WPC to 'sunset' (be automatically repealed), citing outweighed benefits by costs. GTA supports this view and advocates for a credible industry-managed alternative.

GTA made a [Submission](#) into the WPC Review and engaged with DAFF, members and industry during the review. As a general principle, GTA encourages simplicity and consistency to optimise business efficiency, and minimise regulatory cost burden on consumers and business, thereby driving optimal value across the economy.

Recently GTA was informed that DAFF are **finalising the 2nd review** of the Bulk Wheat Code of Conduct and are expected to submit their report and recommendations to Minister Watt by June/July 2024.

DAFF recently presented to the WPC Reference group that includes GTA and grower representative bodies. Its Preliminary Findings recognise broad agreement that the WPC is no longer fit for purpose and should be allowed to sunset.

### **DAFF's 4 key findings in its draft were:**

The **national market for port terminal services has changed significantly** since 2014 and there is a significant increase in competition since 2014.

Parts 3-6 (Protocols, Reporting etc) of the WPC are a **barrier** to new entrants therefore to competition,

Part 2 of the WPC (stems, info etc) provide a **net benefit** to industry and there is support to continue these provisions.

The provisions of Part 2 of the WPC could potentially be achieved by **industry self-regulation**.

GTA considers this is a positive step towards a self-managed industry and a means to remove unnecessary government oversight and bureaucracy.



### **Review of the wheat port access code of conduct**

Wheat Port Code Review Taskforce



## RECENT SUBMISSIONS

On behalf of members GTA makes submissions and provides input into Government reviews and process to ensure Government is aware of GTA member perspectives and requirements to ensure they are considered in its decision making and direction.

### Recent GTA Submissions include:

| Submission   | Summary  |
|--|--|
| <a href="#"><u>DAFF Funding Review</u></a>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DAFF is performing a Sustainable Funding Review and considering how it sets fees and manages the collection of funds to provide its services.</li> <li>• Exporters pay for the DAFF grain export recovery funds through fees paid for DAFF services.</li> <li>• GTA provided comments to DAFF including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sustainable Funding review must focus on economic efficiency.</li> <li>• DAFF should consider monitoring and measuring the efficiency and effectiveness of its services.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <a href="#"><u>GTA Submission into the India Economic Roadmap Discussion Paper</u></a> | <p>GTA recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require Government take a long-term view to the India Industry relationship.</li> <li>• Government strategies should be targeting “front line” programs with industry involvement in the design and program application.</li> <li>• GTA supports a strategic partnership approach to build capability and strengthen trade relationships.</li> <li>• Promotion of Australian grains support regional and sovereign goals of food security and the transition and increase in the value-added sectors.</li> </ul>                            |

GTA Submissions can be found on [our website](#).



In a major win for the agriculture sector the Australian Federal Court has dismissed a class action against Glyphosate. The class action saw hundreds of Australians claiming their exposure to glyphosate caused non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

The review stated there was insufficient evidence to prove the weedkiller causes cancer.

However, in another review the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) published its proposed decisions on the reconsideration of the use of the weedkillers Paraquat and Diquat. Whilst the APVMA proposes to affirm paraquat for use in Australia it will restrict a number of crop-use methods.

**Paraquat** plays a unique role for Australian agriculture with many farmers considering the herbicide an essential tool for conservation agriculture and integrated weed management, preventing soil erosion, preserving crop roots, soil microbes, microorganisms and earthworms, saving arduous labour and protecting agriculturally important crops such as wheat, canola, corn and cotton against invasive weeds.

**Paraquat** is a very effective herbicide used to eradicate weeds on farms and is often used in rotation with other broad-spectrum herbicides to prevent herbicide resistance building in weeds. It is used widely as part of the zero or minimal-till conservation tillage practices.

GTA will discuss this proposed APVMA decision with its Technical Committees and will consider the need to provide the APVMA a Submission.



## AUSTRALIAN GRAIN INDUSTRY BIOSECURITY PLAN



A new plan launched at AGIC 2024 has been unveiled to strengthen biosecurity protections and further safeguard the \$32 billion Australian grain industry, by delivering a range of targeted activities and investments.

The [Australian Grain Industry Biosecurity Plan](#) will give industry, governments and stakeholders the expert framework and focus needed to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to, grain-specific biosecurity incursions.

Developed in collaboration with industry leaders and biosecurity experts, more than 1,300 different plant pests and disease threats have been identified in the Plan. It also details the specific programs and activities needed to take proactive action and protect growers, industry and the economy, from these biosecurity threats.

Plant Health Australia (PHA), the coordinator of the Australian plant biosecurity system, has led the process, supported by Grain Producers Australia (GPA) in consultation with other industry leaders, grain industry stakeholders and government partners, to include their expertise in the Plan's development.

The Plan developed a series of Threat Summary Tables that identified exotic pests known to affect grain crops overseas and assessed their overall risk to the industry based on four criteria:

- entry,
- establishment,
- spread potential and
- economic impact.

## STANDARDS FOR EMPTY SHIPPING CONTAINER INSPECTION

Shipping Containers are widely used in trade across a diverse range of products. Grain is one of the few food products that is loaded directly into a container without any other form of packaging.

Prior to loading the containers must be inspected and be approved suitable for loading with grain. The inspection is to provide assurance that the container will not alter the pest or disease status of the grain during transit.

To assist industry participants to be compliant Shipping Australia Limited, GTA and DAFF produced as a joint project the [Standards for Empty Shipping Container Inspection](#). This was prepared for the benefit and use of grain container packers, exporters, shipowners, container park operators and others with an interest or involvement in food quality, general purpose or scrap cargo containers.

This digital booklet explains container standards, container assessment procedures and outlines steps to clean and repair non-structural defects. This Standard will support the process of inspection and preparation of containers and will minimise any confusion, reduce unnecessary cost and delays in preparing containers given this is ultimately detrimental to exporters, shipowners and the competitiveness of the industry.

GTA members involved in the grain container supply chain that adhere to the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice should be aware of this Standard and apply it to their operations.





# GTA TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

## Workshops Schedule Semester 2, 2024

### July

#### Advisory & Compliance Day

Various Presenters

18 July - Zoom

[Register here](#)

Cost - \$395

### August

#### Grain Merchandising

14-15 August - Zoom

#### Grain Trading Standards

20-21 August - Dubbo, NSW

#### Grain Trading for Non-Traders

22-23 August - Zoom

### September

#### Grain Trading Standards

2 September - Zoom

4-5 September - Horsham, VIC

10-11 September - Adelaide, SA

#### Understanding Grain Markets

12 September - Zoom

#### Trade Rules & Contracts

26 September - Zoom

### October

#### Grain Trading Standards

8-9 October - Perth, WA

#### Grain Trading Standards

21 October - Zoom

#### Grain Finance & Risk Management

23 October - Sydney & Zoom

#### Grain Trading for Non-Traders

16-17 October - Zoom

### In-House Workshops

GTA can host above workshops "in-house" - just for your employees. To inquire about this option, please contact Julia Love.

#### GTA Member fees

1 day Zoom Workshop - \$792  
2 day Zoom Workshop - \$1,300  
1 day F2F Workshop - \$990  
2 day F2F Workshop - \$1,650

#### Non-Member fees

1 day Zoom Workshop - \$1,184  
2 day Zoom Workshop - \$1,650  
1 day F2F Workshop - \$1,480  
2 day F2F Workshop - \$2,475

Please note all prices are GST inclusive, group discounts apply

[Register online here](#)

For any inquiries please contact GTA on: Tel (02) 9235 2155 or 0449 038 330 [admin@graintrade.org.au](mailto:admin@graintrade.org.au)



GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

**WAGGA WAGGA**



# **GTA MEMBER EVENT**

**26 AUGUST 2024**

**5.30pm-7:30pm**

**VICTORIA HOTEL**

**55 BAYLIS ST, WAGGA WAGGA**

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**JOIN US FOR A DRINKS NIGHT AND MEET  
GTA BOARD & TEAM**

**RSVP: [admin@graintrade.org.au](mailto:admin@graintrade.org.au)**