

GRAINMatters



Goyder's Line

GTA—Annual General Meeting

It's that time of year again at GTA with the 2024 Annual General Meeting, along with the appointment of new Board members, Technical Committees, and Sector Council volunteers.

I'm pleased to say that the level of interest in these volunteer positions has been inspiring and shows the commitment of GTA members to both the organisation and an industry that values self-reliance and responsibility. The willingness of GTA members to volunteer, collaborate, and support a resilient, self-sustaining industry is essential to GTA's success. I welcome back our returning Board, Committee, and Council members and extend a warm welcome to new members who are joining to carry on this important work.

GTA Board Members A special welcome to Scott Merson from Queensland Agricultural Merchants (QAM) on his appointment to the GTA Board, and congratulations to Brianna Peake, nominated by Ordinary Level A Member and Michelle Kerr, nominated by Ordinary Level C Member, on their re-election. [Read more](#)

Annual Report I'm also pleased to announce the release of the [GTA Annual Report for 2023-24](#), which provides a valuable summary and snapshot of the year and the progress made by GTA and you, our members, to support grain trade. With the current global uncertainties, GTA's role and mission are more important than ever, and this is reflected in the report. The 2023-2024 Annual Report, Chair's Address, and 2024 AGM Meeting Papers are available on the GTA website at graintrade.org.au/governance.

Thank you Rob Imray! The GTA Board also farewelled Rob Imray after 11 years as the QAM nominee. Rob has been an exceptional part of the Board, Merchant Association (QAM) nominee, contributing as Chair of the Trading Standards Committee for many years, as well as serving on the Plant Breeding Innovation Committee, and most recently, Chair of the Board Audit, Finance, and Remuneration Committee. Rob, thank you for your great contribution to GTA and the industry.



Andrew Goyder, Chair - GTA

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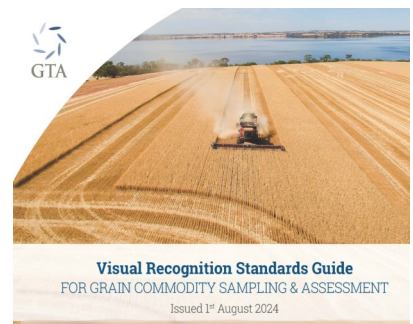
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Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC)



APEC, a forum of 21 Asia-Pacific economies representing 2.9 billion people and accounting for 60% of the global GDP, promotes regional economic growth and prosperity. Australia was one of its founding members in 1989.

In October 2024, GTA's Technical Market Access Consultant, Rosemary Richards, represented GTA at the 2nd APEC Seminar on Best Practices and Applications of Digitalisation and Innovation in the Food Supply Chain, held in Beijing.

This event offered an opportunity to enhance relationships between GTA, the Australian grain industry and China's Academy of National Food and Strategic Reserves Administration, who hosted the seminar.

The APEC project supports the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030 and the Principles for Achieving Food Security Through Sustainable Agri-food Systems in the APEC Region by sharing best practices in digitalisation and innovation in food supply chains. The seminar brought together experts from across the region to discuss the integration of digital technologies in modern food supply chains.

GTA's [presentation](#) covered innovative technologies being adopted across the Australian grain supply chain and their potential to improve efficiency, marketing, and production. The presentation also highlighted the *Grain Industry Code of Practice*, the *GTA Technology Roadmap*, and the *Grain Industry Stewardship Framework for New Technologies*. These frameworks play a vital role in ensuring safe and reliable supply chains, offering insights and guidance for supporting the Food Security Roadmap Towards 2030.

Independent Review of the Coastal Trading Act

GTA Advocates for Global Access in Australian Coastal Shipping Review. GTA recently provided a [submission](#) for the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts' review of the Coastal Trading (Revitalising Australian Shipping) Act 2012, advocating for global access in Australian coastal shipping.

Our message is clear: the grain market is complex and highly competitive, with decisions on vessel choice driven by factors like vessel suitability, market requirements, price, and service. To best serve the industry, Australian grain should access the global shipping fleet without restrictions from regulatory constraints on coastal trade, such as preferential treatment for Australian-flagged coastal traders.

Introducing such measures could lead to higher costs, reduced supply chain efficiency and flexibility, and ultimately increase expenses for Australian producers and consumers. It may also harm Australia's reputation and weaken its global advocacy for rules-based trade, free from unnecessary tariffs and politically motivated trade measures.

News In Brief

Partnership with AOF

GTA recently announced, via [Member Update, 20 of 2024](#) our new partnership with the Australian Oilseeds Federation (AOF) to support the delivery of AOF's functions. This partnership has been established in anticipation of AOF CEO Nick Goddard's pending retirement.

Through this partnership, GTA will work closely with AOF to continue supporting the needs of AOF members, Sustainable Grains Australia initiatives, and the broader oilseed industry. We're looking forward to collaborating with AOF in this new chapter and extend our sincere thanks to Nick Goddard for his strong leadership and dedication over the years. [Read more.](#)

International Grain Trade Coalition

As you may be aware, GTA represents the Australian grain trade in the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC), with our CEO, Pat O'Shannassy, serving on its global Management Council as Secretary and Vice President of the IGTC Executive Committee. This November, Pat will attend the IGTC General Assembly in Geneva, where a global delegation of grain trade representatives from Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, Eastern Africa, the EU, Mexico, the UK, and the USA will gather in person. The IGTC will also host a Grain Trade Seminar at the WTO.

Through our role in the IGTC, GTA continues to bring issues important to the Australian industry into global policy discussions, advocating for open, competitive markets and promoting regulatory alignment grounded in science and risk-based assessments.

GPPEICC Finance Sub Committee

At a recent GPPEICC Finance Sub Committee meeting, DAFF released a budget forecast showing a projected \$3.8 million increase in DAFF's 2024/25 costs to the grain industry—a 25% rise on the last forecast provided. This substantial cost increase suggests that the current DAFF Sustainable Funding Review aims to significantly increase the revenue collected from grain exporters.

The GPPEICC serves as a forum for DAFF to consult with industries involved in grain and plant product exports, requiring DAFF to actively engage with industry members and consider their concerns.

In recent submissions, GTA has raised multiple concerns with DAFF's performance, capabilities, and funding approach. Key points include the following:

- [While most other commodity groups have seen cost recovery programs](#) running at significant deficits, the grain industry has consistently operated at a surplus.

- [GTA has emphasised](#) that the Sustainable Funding review should focus on economic efficiency rather than merely increasing revenue to cover financial shortfalls in other commodity programs.
- [DAFF requires transformative change](#), and GTA has urged DAFF management to create mechanisms and offer transparency in its reform process. GTA suggests that DAFF senior management should engage with key exporter associations, such as GTA, to work collaboratively toward these reforms.
- [A strong focus on departmental efficiency](#) is necessary to ensure a stable platform that can support improvements across the board.

GTA remains committed to advocating for reform, especially in terms of transparency and the appropriate allocation of funding and resources specific to the grain sector.

The 'Village' Approach to Australian Trade

At a recent industry and government forum, a key principle for maintaining Australia's reputation as a supplier of choice was highlighted. The principle emphasises the importance of industry and government providing a consistent, united message on behalf of the grain sector. This was referred to by GTA CEO Pat O'Shannassy as the 'village approach.'

The 'village approach' underscores the collective effort required to foster a supportive trade environment. It involves multiple stakeholders from both the commercial and government sectors who contribute to getting Australian grain to market. The message was clear: reputation and relationships are vital, and any disunity within government or industry can harm Australia's standing.

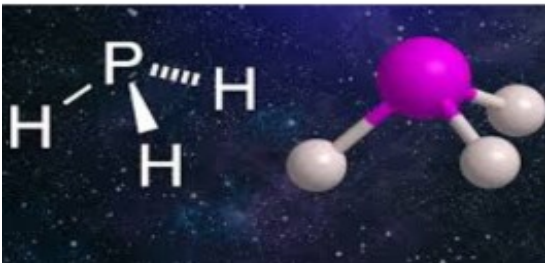
It's essential that both industry and government understand and respect the various layers involved in trade and trade relationships.

These include:

- Individual exporters
- Export supply chain service providers
- Trade associations, including GTA and AOF
- Grain producer associations and their agencies, such as Grains Australia and AEGIC
- The various government departments involved in the grain supply chain.

GTA promoted the idea that understanding individual roles is key to better collaboration, complementing one another, and contributing effectively to trade. As Pat highlighted, it only takes one from the village to disrupt the whole, and complacency is a significant risk for everyone.

Phosphine Residue Limits



Under current workplace health and safety (WHS) standards, Australian grain must not exceed a phosphine threshold limit value–time weighted average (TLV-TWA) of 0.3 parts per million (ppm). This standard is based on acceptable phosphine exposure for individuals working eight-hour days over a five-day work week. However, on 1 December 2026, this official TLV-TWA will be significantly reduced to 0.05ppm, necessitating considerable changes in industry processes, including gas measurement and storage venting. Currently, the industry occasionally faces challenges meeting the 0.3ppm limit, and the stricter threshold is expected to result in additional grain rejections at receipt points.

Recent [research by the GRDC](#) indicates industry-wide issues with phosphine levels in grain delivered from farm storages, often exceeding the current 0.3ppm standard. The research found that even when grain is vented according to minimum venting guidelines, phosphine concentrations can remain above acceptable levels if grain is transferred from a silo (cleared at the top) and stored in a truck for several days.

To address these issues, the GRDC report recommends using spear tests to assess concentration levels and employing constant fan-forced ventilation for a day. Recognising the need for industry preparation, GTA will work closely with relevant Technical Committees to lead discussions and provide updated information and guidelines to members on the upcoming TLV-TWA change.

Celebrating the Next Generation of Grain Industry Leaders with Five Under 30

The Five Under 30 program proudly recognises rising stars in Australia's grain industry, shining a spotlight on talented young professionals under the age of 30 who have shown exceptional commitment, skill, and innovation. This annual initiative, now entering its 2024-2025 edition, is a key industry program designed to foster leadership and development through networking, mentorship, and industry-wide engagement.

In the recently concluded 2023-2024 cycle, participants benefited from invaluable exposure to industry leaders, expanding their professional networks and honing skills essential to their future success. Feedback from participants has highlighted the transformative impact of the program on both personal confidence and professional growth. [Read more](#)

Looking ahead, the 2024-2025 Five Under 30 cohort has been announced, with a new group of young professionals ready to embark on their journey. This new intake will have unique opportunities to engage directly with experienced professionals in the industry, attend sector-specific events, and receive targeted mentorship aimed at nurturing the next generation of leaders in the grain trade. [Read more](#)

Five Under 30 continues to champion talent within the grain sector, helping to shape a dynamic and resilient future for Australia's grain industry.

Upcoming 2025 Conferences



[NWPGP 2025 Conference Early Bird tickets available](#)

Taking place on 4–5 June 2025 at the Sofitel Melbourne on Collins, this essential event invites the grains industry to discuss market needs, pest management, pesticide residues, grain protection, application technology, and control methods. Connect with experts from government, industry, and research bodies.

With virtual access available, the conference caters to both in-person and remote attendees. Past attendees rate the program's relevance at 100%, with 99% valuing the networking—don't miss out, [get your tickets today!](#)

Sponsorship opportunities This event provides an exceptional opportunity to showcase your products and services to a targeted audience of senior professionals across the grains industry. Sponsorship includes: Enhanced visibility through the conference app and two-day program, Direct access to key decision-makers from government, research, and the commercial sector, Exposure to both in-person and virtual attendees.

[Download](#) the Conference Prospectus and secure your spot early to maximise your brand's reach and impact.

Save the date

Mark your calendars for key industry conferences coming up in 2025:

- AGIC Asia: 4–6 March 2025
- AGIC Australia: 30–31 July 2025.

We look forward to seeing you there! Stay tuned for more details on registration and program updates.

GTA Members

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to the following new member who has recently joined Grain Trade Australia:

Nestle Australia

Windarra Grain Storage

Ag Connex

We are pleased that these businesses have chosen to become part of GTA and contribute to GTA's mission to "facilitate trade".

Please email admin@graintrade.org.au with any member enquiries or ideas.



Please be advised that the following companies are no longer GTA Members:

- Quirindi Grain
- GrainTrend
- Laragon and
- Hartree Partners.

Get Your Copy of the Visual Recognition Standards Guide (VRSG) 2024-2025



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