24 AUGUST 2021

VIRTUAL EVENT

Brought to you by NWPGP

GRAIN STORAGE & PROTECTION CONFERENCE

Conference Report

GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

CONFERENCE REPORT

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

NWPGP
NATIONAL WORKING PARTY ON GRAIN PROTECTION

GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

2021 – Conference was held online

The Australian grain industry came together with an information-packed day at the 48th Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference on 24th August 2021 (postponed from 1-2 June). This year once again Grain Storage & Protection Conference was held exclusively online in a virtual format. Delegates were treated to a professional and information filled day and were inspired to continue to support and engage in the work and objectives of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP).

In addition to Covid-19 restrictions, the virtual format provided an opportunity for participation from delegates that due to travel and work commitments would normally not have had the opportunity to attend. The initial feedback confirmed the virtual event provided insights and learnings for industry and ensured the message of the NWPGP was available to a greater range of participants than ever before.

Mr David Ironside, Assistant Secretary Plant Export Operations Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment commented “it’s great to attend the NWPGP as it delivers both government and the grain industry a forum to hear and to discuss information that is critical to the sustainability of the grain supply chain. It provides leadership and stewardship to industry through access to presentation and speaker panels that were extremely knowledgeable and topical to current issues as well as providing the right balance between ‘the science’ and the realities of the market”.

GRAIN TRADE AUSTRALIA

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

ZYTHOR® GAS FUMIGANT

PerkinElmer® For the Better

Coreflow RIGID GRAIN VENTILATION

A product of TEFCO PIPING SYSTEMS

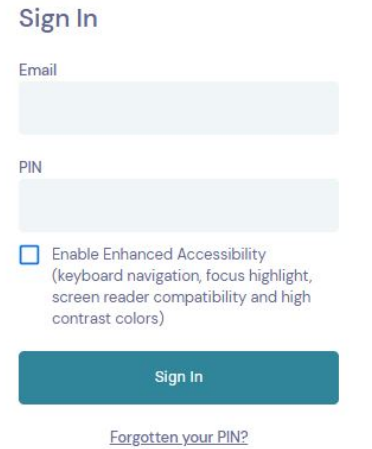
UPL OpenAg™

SOLVAY

KOTZUR

✓ 208 visits to Exhibitor booths ✓ 65 downloads of exhibitor brochures

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



Virtual Event

11 Sessions

160 delegates

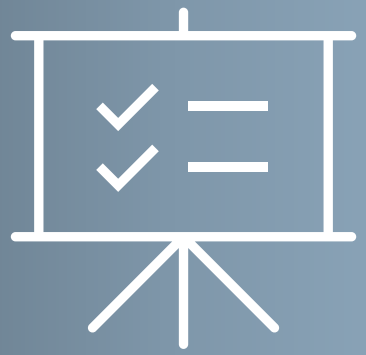
5 Live Sessions

22 Speakers

6 Sponsors

1 day Program

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Gerard McMullen,
Chair - NWPGP

Andrew Goyder,
Chair - GTA

Jo Holloway
NSW DPI

Manoj Nayak,
QLD DAF

Kerry Miles
Grain Protect

Raj Jagadeesan,
QLD DAF

James
Saunders, SGA

Nick Goddard
Pulse Australia

Jenna Garwood,
Assistant Director,
Plants Program - NRS

Paul Taylor
DAWE

Matthew Cossey
CropLife Australia

Jim Maitland
Grower, Rochester SA

Pat O'Shannassy
Grain Trade Australia

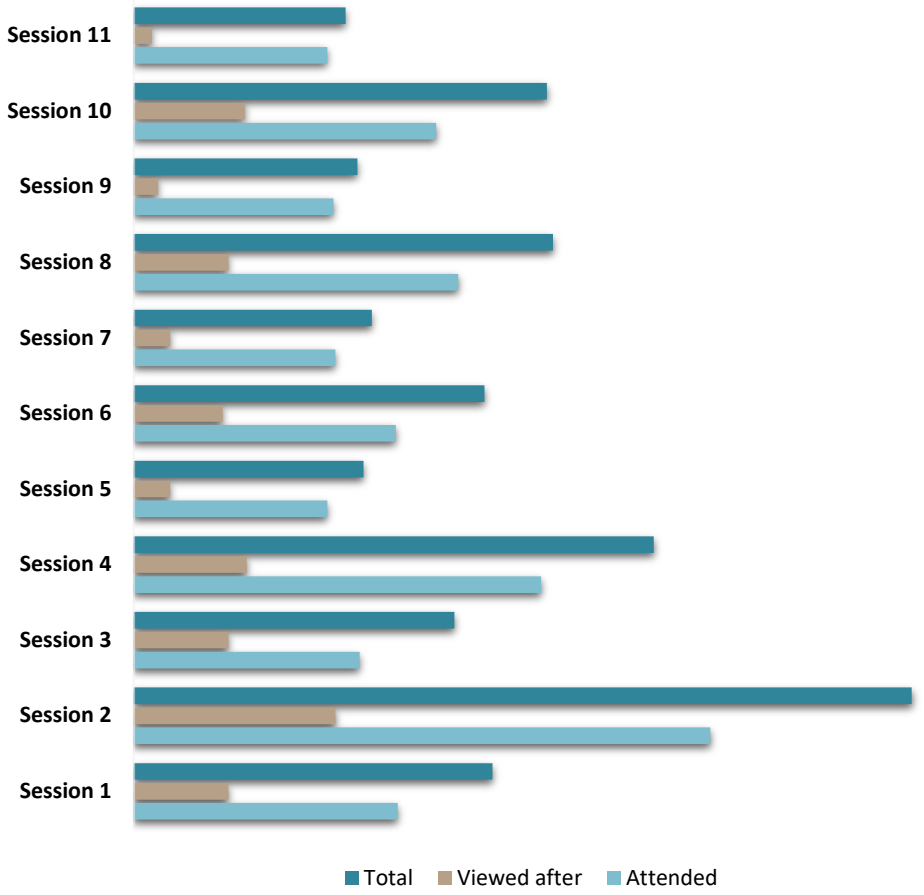
Jason Lutze
APVMA

David Ironside
DAWE

Ray Elson
DAWE

PRESENTATIONS & SESSIONS STATISTICS

Session No	Agenda item	Attended	Viewed after	Total
Session 1	Official Welcome & Meeting Formalities	131	47	178
Session 2	Regulations in Australia	286	100	386
Session 3	Regulations in Australia Live Q&A	112	47	159
Session 4	Insect Status	202	56	258
Session 5	Insect Status - Live Q&A	96	18	114
Session 6	Fumigation of Grain	130	44	174
Session 7	Fumigation of Grain - Live Q&A	100	18	118
Session 8	Sustainable Action for Market Access	161	47	208
Session 9	Sustainable Action for Market Access - Live Q&A	99	12	111
Session 10	Meeting Market Access	150	55	205
Session 11	Meeting Market Access - Live Q&A & Closing Comments	96	9	105



CONFERENCE INSIGHTS

- There was great discussion and debate on the role of government in regulating the use of agricultural chemicals and the current review into the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemical Regulations. Delegates heard this is an important review of both current and future requirements for Australian agriculture and it is important the review delivers the appropriate outcome across all industries.
- Australia has been the world first to approve the use of several specific new chemical products for the grain industry.
- Industry and the Government are progressing the development of voluntary Standards applicable to all grain storage facilities and operators to facilitate innovation and to support the reputation of the Australian grain supply chain in international markets.
- National research is continuing on the resistance of the five major stored product pests to the fumigant phosphine. This is important research as delegates heard the Rusty Grain Beetle in Australia is developing strong resistance to phosphine. This research aids informed decisions on alternative treatments and changes to fumigation practices that support the increased efficacy of existing treatments.
- Having an integrated pest management system in commercial and farm storage is critical to the success in managing pests whilst ensuring the grain remains accepted in the market and by the final consumer.
- Continuing challenges remain in storing grain insect free, meaning hygiene and monitoring practices are critical to ensure the safe storage and integrity of grain. This means the quality of storages and their capability to provide a suitable gas tight environment for fumigation purposes is critical.
- Effective fumigation as well as being critical to prevent insect resistance importantly also supports market access and retention. Australia's fumigation practices can be improved in some areas.
- Our compliance with meeting market MRLs for a range of chemicals remains extremely high.
- There is increased global scrutiny of supply chains and high standards are expected and proof is required through audit processes and record keeping. These requirements will continue to evolve and change due to market preferences.

CONFERENCE SURVEY RESULTS

91% Very satisfied or Satisfied

80% Would attend again (Virtual Platform)

96% Would go back to watch after event

>4 All Sessions rated 4 or more on the scale 1-5

76% Very easy to use

20% Took some time to find way around

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Great speakers and subject matter. Very well organised to cover the subject matter in a single day.

Congrats for ensuring this event continues annually despite COVID and other challenges.

Great effort to pull this together.

Excellent conference delivered under difficult circumstances.

Well done Gerard and GTA Made the best of a difficult situation. As stated last year a live conference would be strongly preferred. Especially enjoyed the session on proposed changes to the APVMA and the response from Crop Life.

Well done to Gerard and the GTA organising team.

Congratulations on bringing the conference together given the deep challenges to timing and running of the event.

Once again, a great conference, well organised and delivered. As all looking forward to meeting in person in 2022.

Virtual format could be more interactive, with each speaker individually welcomed rather than automatically loaded one after the other; an opportunity ask questions after each presenter would make it feel more like a 'live' event.

While I had some initial issues with logging in (which had to do with my organisation's network security settings), it was easy to follow along and everything was easy to access. The presentations were of a great standard and the Q&A sessions were informative. I prefer online conferences as it makes it more accessible to a wider audience, reduces travel costs and is ultimately more environmentally friendly.