

Member Update

Title: Grain Trade Australia Voyage Charter - AusGrain 2013

Update No.: 11 of 13

Date of Issue: 3 June 2013

Distribution

- GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties

1. Issue

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) has developed a voyage charter, AusGrain 2013. AusGrain 2013 is now available for all GTA Members on the GTA website www.graintrade.org.au.

2. Background

Prior to deregulation of the Australian wheat export market, AWB was the custodian of the Australian Wheat Charter (Austwheat), as endorsed by the Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), the most recent edition being Austwheat 1990 (amended 1991).

The Austwheat Charter has become one of the most commonly used charter forms in the Australian export grain trade, although in recent times, industry has reported that it is becoming less common to find an unamended version. The Austwheat Charterparty was also out of date.

GTA was asked to consider becoming the new custodian of the Austwheat charterparty and review the charterparty to bring it in line with the current market environment.

3. Australian Grain Industry Charterparty Development Committee

GTA coordinated the appointment of an Australian Grain Industry Charterparty Development Committee consisting of industry representatives with experience in export contracts and documentation. Geoff Farnsworth, Macpherson & Kelly Lawyers and a specialist in Maritime Law was appointed as the Chairman by the Committee.

The Committee comprised of;

Geoff Farnsworth	Chairman
Rob Wilson	Glencore/Viterra Ltd
Ben Geneve	Co-operative Bulk Handling Limited
Patrick Turner	GrainCorp Operations Ltd
Alister Boyd	Cargill Australia Limited
Greg Burk	Glencore/Viterra Ltd
Hans Van Adrichem	GrainCorp Operations Ltd
Josh Taylor	Alfred c Toepfer International (Aust) P/L
Michael Walsh	Cargill Australia Limited

4. Process

The Committee considered that changes to the existing Charterparties were necessary and met on several occasions to develop an appropriate draft document for initial consultation with shipowners and brokers.

The Committee released a first draft voyage charter for industry comment in September 2012 (Member Update 21 of 12) and again in February 2013 (Member Update 04 of 13), on both occasions, receiving a number of submissions which were considered by the Committee and implemented. These implementations were approved by the Commerce Committee on 17 April 2013, and latter indorsed by the GTA Board of Directors on 28 April 2012.

The new voyage charter, known as AusGrain 2013, is available on the GTA website for use by GTA Members.