

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice 12 of 2018 • 23 July 2018

***TOPIC: Outcome of Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee
Meeting 11 July 2018***

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

1. Status Update

- Grain Trade Australia is a member of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC) representing the interests of all GTA members.
- The GPPEICC is the principal forum for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources to consult with grain, fodder, nuts, seed and timber industries on export inspection and certification, export market access and other relevant issues.
- The most recent meeting was held 11 July 2018 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

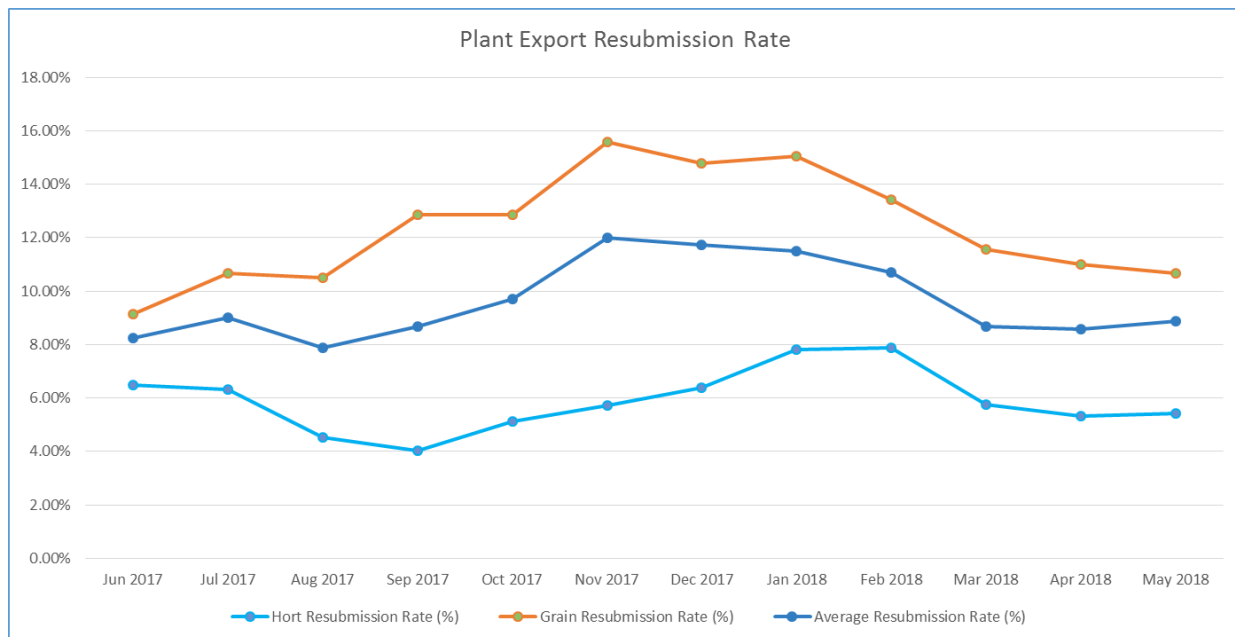
2. Meeting Outcomes

DAWR Export Finance and Certification Charges

- For the 2017-18 financial year the arrangement recorded a deficit of \$2.5m. This was mainly due to significantly lower than anticipated demand for inspection services.
- In May 2018 the Government announced Expanded Cost Recovery measures that require exporters to fund, through cost recovery, regulatory activities that were previously government funded. This measure commences 1 July 2019.
- As a consequence of the above, DAWR will be postponing implementation of revised charging for the Grain export arrangement until 1 July 2019.
- From September 2018, DAWR will commence engagement with industry seeking feedback on the revised charging framework to be in place by 1 July 2019, incorporating the abovementioned additional cost recovery charges.

Documentation & IT System Issues

- Increased DAWR resourcing following the previous year's grain volumes have reduced challenges with maintaining the Plant Exports service standard for provision of export certification in a timely manner.
- Industry error rates with export documents have trended down in recent months however the average resubmission rate is still above 10% for grain. Industry is encouraged to continue to improve its performance of supplying correct documentation to DAWR.



- The Assessment Services Group met with a number of individual exporters in 2017 who had a high number of documents requiring re-submission. This engagement will continue during the remainder of this year.
- GTA continues to chair a Request for Permit Working Group attempting to introduce measures to improve industry performance in meeting regulatory requirements for completed documents approved by DAWR before consignments are exported. A recent meeting of container packers, exporters, container parks and shipping lines recommended a number of actions and GTA will continue to assist industry to implement those measures where appropriate.
- DAWR is in the process of finalising enhancements to the Plant Export Management System (PEMS) v2.1 which is planned for implementation by industry from October/November 2018 onward. PEMS v3 has been scoped. There will be significant benefits to industry arising from implementation of these enhancements. DAWR are seeking industry stakeholders to test PEMS v2.1 and nominations should be sent directly to DAWR.
- Work is underway to enhance DAWR IT systems and DAWR expect to consult with industry in July on proposed upgrades to the current Exdoc system which will be called "Next Export Documentation System (NEXDOC)". Industry is encouraged to participate in that consultation in order to gain maximum benefit from the design of the new system.

Bulk Vessel & Inspections Update

- DAWR have conducted a number of audits on Export Registered Establishments this year. While overall compliance with regulatory requirements was generally improving, findings indicated improvements can be made by industry in some areas including:
 - Site hygiene and pest control
 - Documentation management and record keeping
- DAWR has previously raised concerns with industry compliance on the requirement for collection of representative samples of grain to be inspected at loading. A Sampling Working Group of which GTA is a member continues to provide input into modifications to sampling procedures to achieve greater industry transparency of sample collection and compliance with sampling procedures.
- Similarly, GTA continues to provide input into a Mobile Bulk Loading Working Group which is reviewing policies and procedures for loading of grain under these mobile loading systems.
- DAWR have recently completed a review of Authorised Officer operations and export inspection arrangements. Both DAWR and industry stakeholder views were sought during that review. A number of recommendations were made and industry will be consulted over time on implementation of any changes to grain export arrangements.

3. Further Information

- Contact GTA to seek further information on any of the above issues or to provide input into any of the Working Groups or to be involved in testing of IT systems mentioned above.
- Further information on GPPEICC and its membership can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/partnerships/consultative-committees/gppeicc>