

MEDIA RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grain Trade Australia marks 35 years at the centre of Australia’s grain trade

Australia’s peak grain trading body, Grain Trade Australia (GTA), is marking **35 years of facilitating domestic and international grain trade**, recognising a legacy that has helped shape the modern Australian grain industry.

The milestone dates back to **16 March 1991**, when industry leaders gathered in Tamworth to establish the **National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association (NACMA)**. The organisation was created to bring consistency to grain trading standards, trade rules and contracts, supporting efficient trade across the grain supply chain during a period of significant industry change.

Established as an association of associations, NACMA’s founding members were:

- Australian Grain Exporters Association
- Grain and Agricultural Commodities Association of South Australia
- Grain and Feed Trade Association Inc
- Melbourne Corn Exchange
- Queensland Produce Seed and Grain Merchant Association
- Rural Merchant Supply Association.

These foundations proved critical as the Australian grain industry transitioned from single-desk arrangements to deregulation. NACMA played a central role in developing the commercial frameworks that supported this shift and helped position Australia as a reliable and competitive grain trading nation.

In **2009**, the organisation formally became **Grain Trade Australia**, reflecting its expanded national role. While governance arrangements evolved, the organisation’s purpose remained unchanged - to facilitate trade across the Australian grain value chain.

Since then, GTA has grown into a national organisation with **over 280 members**, supported by industry-led technical committees that actively debate and resolve commercial and technical issues. Engagement with government and international grain organisations has also expanded, with GTA becoming a trusted point of reference on grain trade matters.

Grain Trade Australia’s CEO, Pat O’Shannassy, said the 35-year milestone reflects the enduring value of industry-led collaboration.

“The foresight shown by the founders in 1991 laid the groundwork for an organisation that continues to serve the industry today,” Pat O’Shannassy said.

“For 35 years, GTA, formally known as NACMA, has helped create an operating environment that is efficient, transparent and trusted - outcomes that remain critical as markets, regulation and supply chains continue to evolve.”

Chair of Grain Trade Australia, Ole Houe, said the anniversary highlights both the organisation’s history and its ongoing responsibility to the industry.

“GTA was established by industry, for industry, and that principle remains at the core of how the organisation operates,” Ole Houe said.

“As the grain sector faces increasing complexity and changing market dynamics, the importance of clear standards, strong governance and collaboration across the supply chain has never been greater.”

GTA continues to operate as a **non-political, member-driven organisation**, guided by a vision of an efficient, equitable and open commercial grain industry. Its work spans grain trading standards, contracts and trade rules, dispute resolution, market access advocacy, training and professional development, industry conferences, sector councils and technical committees.

To mark the anniversary, GTA will host a **35th Anniversary Gala Dinner** on **Wednesday, 28 October** at the Four Seasons Hotel Sydney. Bringing together past and present industry participants to reflect on the organisation’s history, acknowledge those who have contributed to its development, and recognise the role GTA continues to play in supporting Australia’s grain trade.

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About GTA

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the peak industry body for the commercial grains sector in Australia, providing the framework to facilitate and promote grain trade. With over 280 Member organisations spanning the entire value chain, GTA Members are responsible for over 95% of all grain contracts, storage and freight movements nationally. GTA also represents Australia’s interests in global markets through its role as a founding and active member of the International Grain Trade Coalition (IGTC). A list of GTA Members can be found at www.graintrade.org.au