

13 August 2010

## Grain Taskforce Progress Report

### Sowing the seeds of reform

The Joint Grain and Seed Industry / AQIS Ministerial Taskforce (Grain Taskforce) has kicked off two key projects in its reform agenda — a legislative review and an evaluation of export certification models.

The Grain Taskforce was set up to review and develop a more efficient export process for the grain, seed and fodder industries — reducing costs and regulatory burden for exporters.

As part of the legislative review project, Australian and overseas competitor legislation has been analysed. In August exporters using the current legislation will also be consulted about potential changes.

The second project is identifying the best practice model for grain export certification. After a review of export inspection systems in Australia was undertaken, countries such as the United Kingdom, Canada and the United States were put under the microscope to see how they manage export certification. A questionnaire has also been sent to industry to seek input on the AQIS inspectorate process and future models they would like implemented.

If you have not received a copy of the questionnaire and would like to contribute, please contact Hunter Quality Solutions on 02 4987 4880.

Reports on both of these reforms will be finalised at the end of August. We will continue to update you on recommendations for change and outcomes delivered.

### Industry feedback on grain issues paper

In April 2010, the Grain Taskforce circulated an issues paper to industry outlining its reform agenda and seeking feedback. A range of submissions were received from across the industry. All submissions are available on the Grain Taskforce section of the ECRP website at [www.daff.gov.au/ecrp](http://www.daff.gov.au/ecrp).

The feedback received has been analysed and incorporated into the reform workplan. The working groups are progressing this through the workplan and direct action to address some of the short-term issues raised.

## Grain Taskforce work plan

| Project   | Outcome  |
|---|--|
| 1. Legislative review and re-write                          | Modernised legislation   |
| 2. Operation and inspection models                          | World-class inspection model   |
| 3. Market access  | Improved market access for exporters   |
| 4. IT systems interface between industry and AQIS           | Harmonised system interfaces between industry and AQIS, including export documentation |
| 5. Financial analysis of inspection models and AQIS charges | Equitable charges based on user pays model   |
| 6. Communication pathways and industry interface with AQIS  | Enhanced relationships between government and industry                                 |

To read the workplan visit [www.daff.gov.au/ecrp](http://www.daff.gov.au/ecrp) and navigate to the Grain Taskforce page.

### About the Export Certification Reform Package (ECRP)

The \$127.4 million ECRP aims to deliver more efficient export certification and inspection services, and reduce AQIS fees and charges for exporters. This reform will result in a world-class export certification system based on improved Australian legislation — all developed in partnership with industry and government.

Continuing to meet importing country requirements, and facilitating market access to grow Australia's \$32 billion agricultural export industry, are priorities under the package.

The ECRP also includes funding for a 40 percent fee offset to assist exporters to transition to the new fees and charges to return industry to full cost recovery that commenced in December 2009. This is in line with the Beale Review, which recommended export certification functions should return to full cost recovery.

### ECRP: Grain snapshot

It's so much more than grain! The ECRP reform agenda for grain covers commodities such as oilseeds, pulses, seeds, fodder, cottonseed, rice, nuts, timber and timber products etc. For the grain export industry, the ECRP offers:

- \$3.496 million for reform of the regulatory and supply chain to 30 June 2011
- \$9.2 million for fee rebates to assist exporters to transition to the new fees and charges. This funding is being used to provide a 40 per cent offset of the full cost impact to 30 June 2011.

## Joint (Grain & Seed) Industry / AQIS Ministerial Taskforce membership

|  |   |                              |
|--|---|------------------------------|
| Grain Trade Australia                        | Geoff Honey (Chairman)<br>Terry Deacon                  | 02 9247 6408<br>07 4662 3217 |
| Australian Grain Exporters Association       | Rosemary Richards                                       | 02 9427 6999                 |
| Australian Oilseeds Federation               | Nick Goddard  | 02 8007 7553                 |
| Australian Seed Federation                   | Will Golsby   | 02 6282 6822                 |
| Gerard McMullen Consulting                   | Gerard McMullen   | 03 8300 0108                 |
| GrainCorp Operations                         | Phillip Clamp   | 02 9325 9116                 |
| Pulse Australia                              | Gavin Gibson  | 02 4997 6468                 |
| Sunrice                                      | Bronwyn Sigmund   | 02 6953 0075                 |
| AWB Ltd                                      | Adrian Reginato   | 03 9209 2126                 |
| Australian Fodder Industry Association       | Colin Peace   | 03 9530 2199                 |
| Australian Cotton Seed Industry              | Rod Wolski  | 07 4691 1211                 |
| CBH Group                                    | Matthew Mews  | 08 9416 1357                 |
|  | Sally Porter  | 08 9216 6096                 |
| Grains Council of Australia                  | Jamie Smith   | 0428 433 183                 |
|  | Alan Umbers   | 02 6273 3000                 |
| Australian Nut Industry Council              | Chris Joyce   | 0418 262 900                 |
| Viterra                                      | Peter Jones   | 03 9604 8328                 |
| Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service | General Manager – Export Reform Branch                  | Switchboard<br>02 6272 3933  |
| Biosecurity Australia                        | General Manager – Horticulture and Grains Export Branch |                              |
|  | General Manager – Plant Biosecurity, Grains & Forestry  |                              |
|  | Program Manager – Grain & Seed Exports                  |                              |

The Grain Taskforce members welcome feedback, comments and ideas from industry during this reform process.

### More information

For more information about the Export Certification Reform Package visit: [www.daff.gov.au/ecrp](http://www.daff.gov.au/ecrp). From here you can navigate to the Grain Taskforce page.