

# Joint (Grain & Seed) Industry / AQIS Ministerial Taskforce – Export Certification Reforms

## Communiqué 2

### Resommencement of Export Certification Reform Package

The Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Hon Tony Burke MP, has implemented a joint industry / AQIS Ministerial Taskforce to review and implement reforms to the delivery arrangements for the AQIS grain and seed export service.

This has arisen in line with the recommendations of the independent review of quarantine and biosecurity arrangements, *One biosecurity: a working partnership* (the Beale Review) that the 40 percent government contribution towards AQIS export certification functions lapsed as scheduled on 30 June 2009.

New export fees and charges commenced on 1 July 2009 to support a return to full cost recovery. On 15 September 2009 the Senate passed a motion to disallow the new fees and charges. As a result, this important reform agenda could not be progressed due to budget constraints.

Following disallowance, AQIS export fees and charges immediately reverted to those that were in place prior to 1 July 2009. The disallowance of the export fees and charges did not reinstate the 40 percent contribution which was in place prior to 1 July 2009.

On 25 November 2009 the Senate agreed to rescind its resolution of 15 September 2009 disallowing the export fees and charges. The rescission has enabled the export certification reform package to proceed. New export fees and charges returning industry to full cost recovery commenced in December 2009, with rebates in place to assist exporters to transition to the new fees and charges.

The joint (Grain and Seed) industry – AQIS Ministerial Taskforce (MTF) has been re-established and is currently finalising the work plan to implement the export industry reform agenda.

#### Taskforce members

Grain Trade Australia	Geoff Honey (Chairman) Terry Deacon	02 9247 6408 07 4662 3217
ABB Grain Ltd	Geoff Masters	08 8304 5104
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	Philip 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 9890 6855
Australian Cotton Seed Industry	Rod Wolski	07 4691 1211
Grain Pool Pty Ltd	Sally Porter	08 9216 6096
CBH Group	Matthew Mews	08 9416 1357
Grains Council of Australia	Jamie Smith	0428 433 183
	Alan Umbers	02 6273 3000
Australian Nut Industry Council	Chris Joyce	0418 262 900
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service	Louise van Meurs	02 6272 4042
	Dean Merrilees	02 6272 3935
	David Heinrich	02 6272 3320
Biosecurity Australia	Bill Magee	02 6272 3220

If you believe that any grain export industry is not represented by this membership please contact AQIS as there is opportunity for the expansion of the membership if required.

#### Funding and completion

There are two components of the Export Certification Reform Package for the grain and seed export industry:

- **\$9.222 million for fee rebates to assist exporters to transition to the new fees and charges.**  
This funding will be used to provide a 40 percent offset of the full cost impact on export industries to 30 June 2011. The rebates will be automatically applied to all invoiced fees and charges. This initiative will also address the funding shortfall from 15 September 2009 to 1 December 2009 as a consequence of the Senate's disallowance. However there will be no retrospective rebates for fees that were collected between 1 July 2009 and 15 September 2009.
- **\$3.496 million for reform of the regulatory and export supply chain to 30 June 2011.**

## Reform package

A broad reform agenda was presented to Minister Burke in June 2009. The Ministerial Taskforce has identified six key areas:

- Export Legislation
- Operation aspects of the export pathway including certification, inspection, capacity to provide service and approved arrangements
- Market Access
- Systems interfaces between industry and AQIS including export documentation
- Financial Analysis of various inspection models and existing AQIS fees and charges
- Communication pathways and industry interface with AQIS

## Work Groups

Six work groups have been formed to coordinate the reform progress.

Project	Work group members
<p><b>Part A            Legislation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of existing legislation, export inspection models and competitor legislation</li> <li>▪ Training AQIS and industry about new legislation</li> </ul>	Philip Clamp (Convenor) Geoff Masters Rosemary Richards Adrian Reginato David Heinrich Bill Magee
<p><b>Part B            Operation and Inspection Models</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of a process map of the export pathway including AQIS, Industry and other regulatory bodies' practices.</li> <li>▪ Consult with industry, review AQIS work plans and develop alternative inspection models</li> </ul>	Geoff Masters (Convenor) Rosemary Richards Philip Clamp Gavin Gibson Adrian Reginato Rod Wolski Chris Joyce Bill Magee Louise van Meurs David Heinrich
<p><b>Part C            Market Access</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review capacity of current systems to meet market requirements and market access capacity enhancements.</li> </ul>	Rosemary Richards (Convenor) Nick Goddard Will Golsby Philip Clamp Terry Deacon Adrian Reginato Colin Peace Sally Porter Jamie Smith/ Alan Umbers Chris Joyce Louise van Meurs David Heinrich Mahmood Nasir
<p><b>Part D            Systems Interface</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review of all systems not included in the DAFF IT review</li> <li>▪ Systems interfaces between industry and AQIS including export documentation</li> <li>▪ Identify and implement short term efficiency gains to AQIS electronic export documentation</li> </ul>	Colin Peace (Convenor) Sally Porter Matthew Mews Jamie Smith/ Alan Umbers Louise van Meurs David Heinrich
<p><b>Part E            Financial Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Analyse existing charges and charging categories</li> <li>▪ Review operating costs of the AQIS grain and seed exports program including corporate and overhead costs</li> <li>▪ Financial Analysis of various inspection models</li> </ul>	Gavin Gibson (Convenor) Will Golsby Rod Wolski Sally Porter Louise van Meurs David Heinrich
<p><b>Part F            Communication pathways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop one collective communication path for all aspects of Taskforce operations and outcomes</li> <li>▪ Establish a new client management database</li> <li>▪ Review communication pathways and industry interface with AQIS</li> </ul>	Nick Goddard (Convenor) Bronwyn Sigmund Rod Wolski Sally Porter Louise van Meurs David Heinrich

## Industry engagement

Industry representatives will be consulting with their member organisations. There will be a number of opportunities to provide input and feedback into the specific areas of reform. If anyone has any issues or ideas they would like to put forward please contact a member of the taskforce or email

**grainsmtf@daff.gov.au**