

# GRAINMatters



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## Information Technology Advisory Committee

Information and Technology is moving at a rapid pace, and is driving change across all industries including grain. GTA is establishing a specialist Technical Committee to focus on IT issues and opportunities. The Committee will provide industry:

- A forum to consult and review the impacts and opportunities of existing and emerging technology;
- Cross business focus on process and transactional issues; and
- Collaborative opportunities to perform research, share information, and improve the facilitation of trade and learnings across industry.

An opportunity to help shape the Committee objectives is available through attendance at an industry forum that will identify the direction, opportunities, and to further develop the Committee Terms of Reference to ensure its effectiveness. Like all GTA Technical Committees, it is important that it is supported, and Member driven.

More information about the role of the Committee and the forum will be provided in an upcoming Member Update.

## Upcoming GTA Conferences

### Export Contracts & Documentation Course

- This will be held on the 10 & 11 May in Melbourne. [Click here for the registration and program.](#)

### The Australian Grain Storage and Protection Conference

- This will be held on 19 & 20 June at the Rydges in Melbourne. This will provide the opportunity for industry participants to get together and learn about happenings in grain protection and participate in setting the priorities and work program for the National Working Party on Grain Protection. [Click here for the registration form and Sponsorship Prospectus.](#)

### Australian Grains Industry Logistics Conference

- GTA has announced the inaugural **Grains Logistics Conference** to be held on 4 & 5 July at the Rydges in Melbourne. This is the first time a national conference has been held specifically on supply and logistics issues and is targeted at professionals working across the grains industry supply chain. It will be a great opportunity to network with counterparts in the industry, sharing skills, knowledge and experience.

## Minister Littleproud - Stakeholder event

- GTA was invited to participate in an agricultural stakeholder event held in Canberra by new Agricultural and Water Resources Minister, The Hon. David Littleproud MP.
- It is important for GTA members to be represented as the Minister develops portfolio priorities.
- GTA appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Minister - to advocate for the grain industry on specific grain-related issues.

## Preparing for the Changes to Chain of Responsibility (CoR) Legislation

The following activities are the focus of GTA to ensure members and industry are prepared for the changes in Chain of Responsibility legislation.

### Training

- GTA's Introduction Seminars concluded with well attended seminars in SA & WA.
- Based on available funding, the next stage of the Training in CoR is to introduce (in conjunction with producer groups) workshop-based training days throughout Australia. The outcome of these training courses will result in attendees:
  - Completing their business risk assessment;
  - Establishing Risk Controls for their business,
  - Developing a first draft of their company Policy and Procedures focussed on CoR;
  - Developing a structured process to record and maintain records around CoR activities and training; and
  - Developing a plan for CoR training and internal and external audit processes.

### Improving Industry Documents to Support CoR Compliance

- **Master Industry Registered Code of Practice**
  - GTA has been involved with the greater transport industry in the development of a Master Code of Practice
- **Grain Transport Code of Practice**
  - This Code is being updated in line with the Master Code (1.) and as part of the Grain Code of Practice review.
- **Grain Transport Contract**
  - GTA Technical Committees are reviewing the grain industry transport contract to ensure compliance with CoR requirements.
- **GTA Standard Form Contracts**
  - GTA will also be reviewing all transport related sections of its standard form contracts to ensure consistency with the new COR laws.

## Biosecurity in the Supply Chain

- Maintaining the hygiene and bio security of grain as it travels through the supply chain is critical to ensure a sustainable industry. With this intent, GTA and the Fertiliser industry are reviewing existing biosecurity safety protocols to ensure they continue to protect the industry now and into the future.
- Once the review is completed the group will seek to extend and share opportunities to further improve biosecurity with the wider industry and all supply chain participants.

## Helping Shape Government Strategy and Direction - GPPEICC

- GTA continues to represent its Members at a senior government forum (Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee) where various industry issues are raised to government, specifically DAWR.
- GTA attended a meeting in February and has published the relevant meeting outcomes in a GTA Market Notification. [Click here to view.](#)

## Non-Tariff Measures (NTM) Working Group update

- GTA is working with GIMAF representing the Australian Grains industry on the DAWR Non-tariff measures (NTMs) Working Group. NTMs are an importing country's policy measures, other than ordinary customs tariffs, that can potentially have an economic effect on international trade in goods. These NTMs are of particular relevance to agricultural commodities.
- The NTM Working Group was formed to develop a more coordinated approach by government and industry to address the impact of NTMs on Australia's exporters.
- The NTM working group looked at several NTM related issues including the impact of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and the role of Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) in addressing NTMs. The working group will also look at the role of international standard-setting bodies in reducing the impact of NTMs and specific actions to support this.
- GTA and GIMAF presented the outcomes of the Grain industry's work on identifying and prioritising the NTMs that significantly impact grain exports. The outcomes of this work will be incorporated into the overall DAWR prioritisation of trade and market access issues.