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Rylah MP  
Liberal for Braddon

Tasmanian  
Liberals

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Mr Pat O'Shannassy  
CEO  
Grain Trade Australia  
PO Box R1829  
ROYAL EXCHANGE  
SYDNEY NSW 1225

By email: [admin@graintrade.org.au](mailto:admin@graintrade.org.au)

Dear Mr O'Shannassy

#### **GRAIN RECEIVAL STANDARD – TASMANIA**

Recently your organization received a letter from Mr Michael Southan, General Manager, Grain Growers Ltd, outlining the case for a variation in the national Grain Receival Standard as it applies in Tasmania.

I write in support of this proposition to increase the moisture level at harvest for Tasmanian grain to 13.5%.

Agriculture in Tasmania is a significant and important sector. The Hodgman Governments AgriVision 2050 policy is to grow the value of production tenfold and as such we support projects and policy that advances this plan.

I have received several representations from Tasmanian grain growers (wheat in particular) during the recent harvest season regarding the inappropriateness of the National Grain Receival Standard (GRS) being applied to grain harvested here.

My understanding is that a variation to the standard is not unprecedented particularly where the variation is applied to recognize unique conditions applicable to a geographic region. I believe Western Australia operates with a variation to the national standard.



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There are compelling arguments as to Tasmania's circumstances. Notably:

- We are an island and thus a readily defined geographic area.
- Tasmanian grown grain is almost universally used for stock feed.
- Only on rare occasions has Tasmanian grain been exported. Growers support the 12.5% National GRS be applied to any grain for export.
- A historical precedent exists in Tasmania for moisture content of grain in that before the nationalization of the GRS the Tasmanian Grain Elevator Board would accept grain up to 13.3% moisture.
- Tasmania's unique cooler, maritime climate is not recognized in the one-sized national approach.

I recently attended the launch of The Tasmanian Foods Ltd – Nichols Ethical Poultry brand. At this launch the CEO repeatedly said that the basis of this premium brand is to have Tasmanian clean and natural inputs. However, as growers had told me prior to the launch, in this first year of production for this brand, the Grain Receival organisations would not accept the Tasmanian grown grain to fulfill Nichols' promise. This was solely based on the grain not achieving the 12.5% moisture level as set in the national GRS.

I recognize GTA's role today is to ensure the efficient facilitation of commercial activities across the grain supply chain.

Tasmania's grain supply chain is not supported by the national standard as now applied.

To grow our grain production in this state we need standards which reflect the climatic conditions unique to this state and ones that are supported in other similar countries like New Zealand, the US and Europe.

I commend the recommendation from Grain Growers Australia to vary the GRS in Tasmania and urge your organisation to implement this variation before the coming planting season.

Yours sincerely

**Joan Rylah MP**  
**Government Whip**  
**Member for Braddon**