

3. Australian Grain Exporters Council

Australian Grain Exporters Council ([AGEC](#)) is a Sector Council of GTA. Sector Councils, formed by GTA members offer specialist industry groups the opportunity to meet, form policy, discuss and influence issues in their particular area of interest.

AGEC (formerly the Australian Grain Exporters Association (AGEA)) is the representative body for exporters of Australian grain and seeks to facilitate an efficient and effective export industry.

AGEC and GTA both support this Submission.

4. The Grain Industry

The grain industry is one of Australia’s largest agricultural industries. With over 70% of production exported (in a typical season), the export sector is a large earner of foreign income, while the domestic market is the largest single consumptive home for Australian grain.

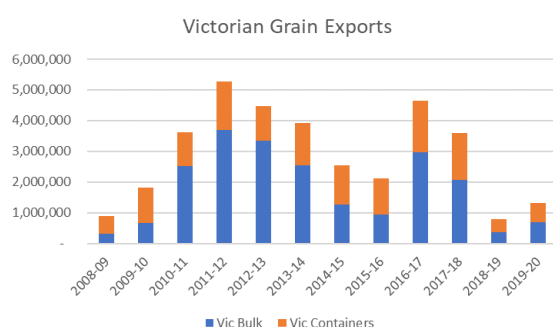
The 5-year average grain industry value (at the farm gate – excluding rice) is around \$A13.7 billion, with the 5-year average exports value (FOB) at \$A 10.8 billion. In 2018/19 Australian exporters shipped approximately 18.7 million metric tonnes (mmt) of grain¹.

The Australian grain sector has been a consistent provider of productivity increases to the Australian economy with the industry, and its ancillary suppliers and service providers, being substantial employers, from the farm gate through to end point consumption, and particularly in rural and regional Australia.

The Australian grain industry is export oriented with 70% of Australian grain production exported annually, with the Asian region accounting for over 50% of exports. Wheat imports into South East Asian countries have grown twofold since 2000². Asian demographic and economic growth are expected to see increased demand for Australian grain to 2030 and beyond³. This means investment and efficiency growth across the Australian grain value chain, along with market diversification, will be crucial to maintain a competitive position in both export and domestic markets. This will be important to Australia’s economic growth, especially to rural and regional economies.

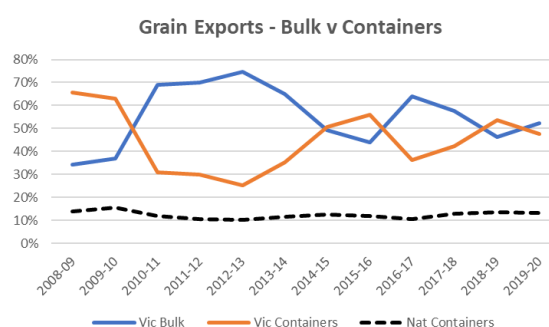
The 5-year average Victorian grain export volume is 2.5mmt. This fluctuates in response to seasonal crop production and domestic market conditions. Container exports of grain has grown and developed over the last 15-20 years to become an important component of the grain supply chain. Nationally, around 10-13% of Australian grain is now exported in containers, however the container exports from Victorian ports is significantly greater with around 54% of grain exports being in containers.

Figure 1 – Victorian Grain Exports



Source: ABS 2020

Figure 2 – Grain Exports – Bulk v Containers



Source: ABS 2020

4.1 Infrastructure Surcharges

¹ ABARES (March 2020)
² USDA PSD (April 2020)
³ USDA PSD (April 2020)

