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MEDIA RELEASE

PROVISION OF GRAIN STOCKS INFORMATION

The Chair of the Port Access Code of Conduct Development Committee (CDC), Mr Tom Keene, announced the CDC has agreed, in-principle, to provide additional grain stocks data to the market should a Voluntary Code of Conduct be agreed by the industry.

The in-principle agreement seeks to address the issues identified by industry following the introduction of the Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012, currently before parliament.

“In February 2012, industry formed the CDC to facilitate the development of a port access Voluntary Code of Conduct. The development of a Code is in line with recommendations of the Productivity Committee, and the government’s response,” said Mr Keene.

“If the Bill is passed the Code, subject to the approval of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, will replace the need for port terminal operators to pass an Access Test as a condition for exporting bulk wheat from 1 October 2014.”

The CDC met on 19 June 2012 and took the opportunity to address recommendations made by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Resources, Fisheries and Forestry and independent industry expert Peter Reading in relation to his report on the provision of stocks information.

“Discussion at this meeting led to the CDC agreeing, in-principle, for the grain industry to provide additional grain stocks data for improved transparency,” said Mr Keene. “Whilst the details are still to be determined, the CDC will continue working to provide industry with an acceptable and beneficial outcome.”

The CDC consists of established port owner/operators, Australian Grain Exporters Association (AGEA), Grain Producers Australia (GPA), National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) and Grain Trade Australia (GTA).

“Good progress has been made on many of the major issues associated with the code, highlighting the constructive and cooperative approach within the Committee. The CDC has held four meetings since its formation and will have developed a third draft of the Code for CDC discussion by the end of June 2012,” Mr Keene said.

Further information:

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Grain Trade Australia develops the grain standards and contracts that are used across the Australian grain industry and has over 250 member organisations ranging from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies.

Members operate within all sectors of the grain industry in Australia. Organisations involved in related commercial activities such as banking, communications, grain advisory services and professional services (solicitors and accountants) are also members.