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MEDIA RELEASE

GTA proposes voluntary levy to fund industry development

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is proposing that a voluntary levy on grain exports be introduced to fund post farm-gate grain industry development functions and has released a discussion paper on the issue.

The Chairman of GTA, Mr Tom Keene, said feedback was now being sought on the paper which has been developed in response to changes in the grain industry.

“The deregulation of the wheat export industry saw the loss of funding for many industry development functions.

“This paper not only sets out to identify those industry development functions which enjoy widespread industry support, but importantly details a long term sustainable funding model,” Mr Keene said.

GTA is proposing that an industry managed Trust be set up to collect a voluntary levy on all grain exports in bulk and containers. Funding would then be allocated to industry development functions such as wheat variety classification, market access initiatives, development and maintenance of codes for the industry and provision of wheat stocks data.

“Other functions can be included as their need is identified by the grain industry.” Mr Keene added.

Should there be broad support for GTA’s proposal GTA will develop a business plan for the Trust which will identify the industry development functions to be initially covered, a budget, governance and administrative issues.

A copy of the discussion paper is now available on the GTA website – www.graintrade.org.au .

Submissions should be forwarded to reach GTA by Friday 3rd August 2012.

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.