

**Joint media release:**

**Grains Industry Market Access Forum  
Australian Grain Exporters Council  
GrainGrowers  
Grain Producers Australia  
Grain Trade Australia**

## **Grains industry calls for recovery fund for Australian barley**

**2 October 2020**

With the devastating 80.5% tariffs announced on Australian barley exports to China, anticipated to cost barley producers around \$2.5 billion over the next five years, the grains industry is calling on government for a \$20m Industry Recovery Fund.

The situation facing growers is not of their making. The proposed \$20m Industry Recovery Fund would assist by enabling the urgent action to accelerate market developments for Australian grains including new customer-driven demand for barley.

The punitive tariffs applied by China have effectively stopped Australian barley exports to that market. Exports to China accounted for 60-70% of all Australia's barley exports.

This is a national interest issue. Australian grains account for the top two largest agricultural sectors and are a critical part of rural and regional economies, driving local employment.

The proposed fund would be a modest investment given the brunt of the tariff situation will be felt farmers and regional communities.

The grains industry has an extensive history of demonstrating resilience in changing operating environments, from droughts, fires, floods and pandemics. However, the recent events have highlighted that the industry alone cannot maintain important overseas market access.

The grains sector calls on government to show its commitment to accelerate market development and capture opportunities for Australian barley and alternate grains, to diversify, secure new market demand and expand existing markets by establishing the Industry Recovery Fund.

END

### **Media contacts**

Brett Hosking, Chairman, GrainGrowers **0427 593 051**

Andrew Weidemann, Chairman, Grain Producers Australia **0428 504 544**

Pat O'Shannassy, CEO, Grain Trade Australia **0427 881 113**

