

GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice 13 of 2021 • 19 October 2021

TOPIC: Outcome of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee Meeting 13 October 2021

DISTRIBUTION: GTA Members – primary contact list. Please circulate to all appropriate internal parties.

1. Status Update

- Grain Trade Australia is a member of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee (GPPEICC) representing the interests of GTA members.
- The GPPEICC is the principal forum for the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) to consult with the grain, fodder, nuts, seed and timber industries on export inspection and certification, export market access and other relevant issues.
- The most recent meeting was held on 13 October 2021 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

2. Meeting Outcomes

DAWE Finance and Budget Issues

- Industry debt levels with DAWE have again reduced in the most recent reporting period, again a pleasing result. DAWE are making efforts to recover due debits and industry is encouraged to meet their financial obligations.
- The Grain Program incurred a deficit for the full 2020/21 year of \$1m.
- DAWE are now undertaking an annual cycle of review of the grain fees and charges, termed the Cost Recovery Implementation Statement (CRIS) outlining DAWE fees and charges for each year.
- GTA is a member of the Finance Working Group formed to provide advice to DAWE on the proposed budgets for each year. Industry will also be consulted as part of that process each year once draft budget figures are known and published for consultation. The forecast CRIS for 2022/23

is expected to be released for consultation in November-December 2021 with the due implementation date of 1 July 2022.

Documentation and IT System Issues

- The overall rate of documentation resubmissions has increased in recent months. The DAWE Regional Assurance Managers (RAMs) have been working with industry to attempt to reduce re-submission rates.
- As noted in previous reports, the primary reasons for resubmission have been:
 - AO Paperwork – incomplete/errors
 - RFP details – incomplete/errors
 - Supporting documents – incomplete/errors
 - Lodgement error
- The industry Working Group will meet shortly to also consider actions to be taken to reduce this level of re-submissions.
- DAWE have recently planned and made significant efforts to meet industry turn-around targets for documentation processing, given the expected large harvest and export program for the next 12 months. However, while these measures will assist, it is essential industry submit documentation that is accurate in order to prevent unnecessary delays and additional costs for all stakeholders.
- A Communique outlining further information on the causes of resubmissions and emphasising industry responsibilities will be published by DAWE shortly.
- PEMS has been upgraded further with amendments to existing functions to allow for more automation. Future updates and releases are being planned.
- E–phyto planning continues with the formation of a new “DAWE IT” group to consider this project. It is expected building will commence in 2022. GTA continues to advise DAWE of the benefits of e-phyto and the consequences of the delays in adoption.
- A recent survey on MICO R functionality was made to industry. Feedback was generally positive. Results of the survey will be considered for future updates to MICO R to improve functionality. Industry is encouraged to provide feedback either directly to DAWE or via GTA on suggestions for improvement to MICO R. GTA will be providing DAWE with a list of potential improvements on behalf of industry in the next few weeks.

Operational Matters

- The COVID outbreak has limited audits of facilities in regional areas due to travel restrictions. Issues with industry are being managed as they arise based on travel restrictions. It is hoped that travel restrictions are lessened, reliance on remote audits will be reduced and site visits will occur where possible.
- As previously noted to industry in there are several activities occurring in regard to Bulk Vessel Inspection (BVI) by Authorised Officers. As an update:
 - DAWE has worked with Marine Surveyors (and SAL, shippers and GTA) to develop draft standards for the inspection of empty bulk vessels. These are not yet completed but will be shortly.
 - New qualifications for a marine surveyor are being developed. Implementation is being carefully managed in order to not unintentionally disrupt the expect large shipping task in the next year. Industry will be advised of the planned implementation date.
 - The introduction of the requirement for AOs to use Go Pros (or equivalent) to record empty bulk vessel inspections at berth and anchorage has again been deferred. An Industry Advice Notice and Frequently Asked Questions will be circulated to industry prior to the implementation. In the interim, industry should plan for its implementation.

- Minor legislation changes to cater for the above are currently being developed and will be released to industry in late 2021 for industry consultation.

3. Further Information

- Contact GTA to seek further information on any of the above issues.
- Further information on GPPEICC and its membership can be found at <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/partnerships/consultative-committees/gppeicc>