

# GTA MARKET NOTIFICATIONS



Notice 9 of 2023 • 18 July 2023

**TOPIC: Outcome of the Grain and Plant Products Export Industry Consultative Committee Meeting 5 July 2023**

**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, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) 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 5 July 2023 and issues of relevance to GTA members are outlined below.

## 2. Meeting Outcomes

### **DAFF Finance and Budget Issues**

- Industry debt levels associated with the provision of DAFF services has risen due to DAFF recently invoicing Registered Establishment fees to industry. As always, industry is encouraged to pay due fees within a suitable timeframe.

- 2022/23 May YTD DAFF revenue shows a significant increase over the monthly forecast. The final Financial Year figures are not available as yet but as per last season, is expected to result in a significant surplus of funds collected by DAFF compared to its cost.
- DAFF have recently supplied to industry an Industry Advice Notice (IAN) of the 2023/24 Grain and Plant Products exports cost recovery implementation statement (CRIS) outlining DAFF fees and charges for the 2023/24 year to apply as of 1 July 2023.
- A review of fees and charges is expected in the ensuing months given the current surplus achieved by the grain program and the expected export program for 2023/24 which will increase that surplus.
- GTA presented a proposal on a pilot project to develop a Standard and a framework for the assessment of digital image technology used to assess grain for both grain quality and biosecurity parameters. That project was approved by GPPEICC members and following development of the required agreement and procedures, will be funded from DAFF over-recovered funds. A separate advice from GTA to industry will be provided once the pilot project arrangements are in place.

### **Strategic and Operational Matters**

- DAFF auditors have continued conducting onsite announced and unannounced audits at Registered Establishments, with a focus on unannounced audits. The most common form of non-compliance identified continues to be a) Incomplete record keeping b) Pest control and c) Hygiene. Industry is encouraged to ensure procedures are in place to always manage these issues, not just prior to an announced audit.
- During recent visits by team members of the Grain and Seed Export Program to regional areas, it was again noted that the hygiene of some Registered Establishments was not appropriate which has led to their suspension. This also occurred in the first quarter of 2023. Industry is encouraged to maintain and improve performance in those areas to meet their legislative obligations.
- The Accredited Grain Surveyor Assurance (AGSA) scheme started on 1 July 2023 and industry should familiarise themselves with the requirements under that Scheme in relation to vessel surveys.
- GTA is now working with DAFF to develop the Regulatory Assurance Framework for administering and monitoring compliance with the draft Grain Storage and Assets Management Standard. Industry will be advised of further progress during the next 12 months, prior to the expected release date of 1 July 2024.
- The revised requirement to fumigate grain pre-shipment under mandatory Quarantine and Pre-Shipment rules is expected to be implemented in early 2024. To assist industry to prepare, DAFF will be advising requirements to industry in the ensuing months.
- GTA continues to be involved in the Working Group reviewing duplicated procedures between the marine surveyor and the Authorised Officer inspection of bulk vessels. A meeting is expected shortly to further consider reforms in this area.

### **Digital Reforms and IT System Issues**

- As per the last GPPEICC meeting and GTA Notification to industry, DAFF have again advised there continues to be a delay in implementation of e-Phyto. The meeting was advised there is potential for implementation by the end of 2023, with a more detailed update on this action to be provided next month.
- Refinements continue on Exdoc with a planned integration into NEXDOC in the future, which would include e-Phyto.

## **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>