

GRAINMatters



EDITION 60, OCTOBER 2021

UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Grain Harvest & Beyond - Visa options & travel exemptions webinar](#) (FREE)
- [Chain of Responsibility Online Training Course](#) (FREE)

COVID-19

GTA have established a COVID-19 page on our website, as information source for Members.

In response to member demand, GTA has set up COVID-19 Safety Guidelines.

[Access COVID-19 page here](#)

In this Issue:

- [A new Wheat Class - Australian White Wheat](#)
- [Sustainability Principles and Guidelines](#)
- [China's Draft Regulation – Registration of Storage Facilities](#)
- [Improving Market Access](#)
- [Grain Storage Asset & Management Standards](#)
- [A Farmer Guide to Selling Grain](#)
- [Representative Export Sampling](#)
- [Supply Chain Benchmarking Dashboard](#)
- [WA Shipping Protocols](#)
- [Digital CVDs](#)
- [AGM 2021—Board Appointments](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)

AWW - THE NEW HARD WHEAT CLASS

- Wheat Quality Australia (WQA) has introduced a **new wheat Hard Class – Australian White Hard Wheat (AWW)**. A summary of AWW includes:
 - * WQA have been considering for some time the introduction of a new Hard Class which may fit the requirements of a relatively large proportion of the export market for Australian wheat.
 - * The introduction of AWW is proposed **to target** customers who purchase Australian White Hard wheats for **general purpose requirements**.
 - * The aim of AWW is to provide scope for future high yielding varieties and to remove the need to pass **‘end product performance’** testing prior to being approved. This is a change as the wheat classification process has long been based on **assessing the inherent quality characteristics of a new variety** by focussing on its processing and end use performance.
- All elements of the new Class, including new bin grades, will require time and effort to ensure industry is aware of and prepared to implement this new wheat Class.
- GTA’s Trading Standards Committee has established a Working Group to consider all implications and potential issues associated with the introduction of AWW.
- As an initial step the Working Group has commissioned an [industry information paper](#) outlining the facts as they are known at this point.
- It should be understood as this is a new Class and there is information still to be sourced, industry will be updated as new information is gathered.



Australian White Wheat – a New Wheat Class

SUSTAINABILITY - PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES

- The **sustainability objectives of individual companies** in the grain supply chain whilst varied support an efficient, health focussed and safe global grain trade that improves the world’s food security. GTA recognises sustainability is an important issue for industry and for GTA members. GTA is aware many of its members have already established or are establishing Sustainability Programs according to their particular business positions and commercial circumstances.
- To support members as they address and approach sustainability, GTA is providing **principles and guidelines** in a [Technical Guideline Document \(No. 22\)](#) that may assist individual businesses as they consider their sustainability objectives and programs.
- GTA members may consider this [Guideline](#) and the principles and guidelines it contains if establishing a company sustainability program.

CHINA'S DRAFT REGULATION - REGISTRATION OF STORAGE FACILITIES

- The People's Republic of China has approved draft Regulations on the Registration and Administration of Overseas Producers of Imported Food (Degree 248), and they will enter into force on **January 1, 2022**.
- Once implemented, the measure will require that overseas food manufacturers, processors, and **storage facilities** be registered with the Chinese authorities to enable export product to China. The measure covers all food products except food additives.
- The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) has released a number of Industry Advice Notices to assist the grain industry to understand how to comply with the People's Republic of China Regulations. These included detailed instructions for the registration of food processing and storage facilities handling product for export to China.
- DAWE's view from the description provided is that:
 - **unprocessed wheat and barley are not impacted by the regulation.**
 - **Canola may require registration as it may fall under the Edible fats and oils** – *Edible oil refers to the seeds of oil plants used for extracting vegetable oil, mainly including peanut and sesame for oil.* Therefore, providers of port facilities and container packers for canola (i.e., unprocessed), as well as canola crush facilities are advised to register
- The DAWE Industry Advice Notices (IANs) are provided here:
 1. [IAN 2021 - 41](#) - Includes initial advice of the GACC Regulation
 2. [IAN 2021 - 52](#) – Provision of additional information including plant and plant products that are considered applicable under GACC Regulation (not unprocessed wheat and barley)
 3. [IAN 2021 - 53](#) – An update that included the establishment of a DAWE on-line registration service for exporters impacted by the GACC Regulation.
 4. [IAN 2021 - 54](#) - A reminder of the deadline for registering.
 5. [IAN 2021 - 58](#) – Announcement of further updated information
- The DAWE IANs were distributed to GTA members via [GTA Market Notifications](#)
- The DAWE information is based on its best understanding of GACC Regulations, noting specific clear advice and information on all scenarios has been difficult to obtain.
- Currently unregistered facilities and future new facilities such as container packing facilities or seaport terminals will be required to register. The process of how new facilities (that have no history of exporting to China) are registered is still to be determined.
- GTA, the Australian Government and the governments of other exporting countries to China are working to try and ensure the latest information on the Regulations is available to industry. GTA will provide members with further updates and information as it becomes available.
- Further information is available in the DAWE [frequently asked questions](#). If your query is not answered in the FAQs then direct your query to DAWE Contact [Export Listing](#) for any enquiries.

IMPROVING MARKET ACCESS

- GTA has been a long-term partner with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, DAWE and Austrade to support GTA members looking to grow their businesses through international trade.
- Recent and ongoing activity in this market access area has included a focus on the **Indian** market and the **Saudi Arabian** market.
- GTA recently presented at a special **Austrade webinar** focusing on what is an increasingly important market - Saudi Arabia. The session was organised by Austrade in conjunction with the Saudi Arabia Grains Organisation (SAGO), GTA, Grains Australia Limited (GAL) and AEGIC.
- The Saudi barley market has liberalised in early 2021 and moved from a single state-related purchasing organisation (SAGO) and is now open for private sector imports. This is reported to create greater market flexibility and **creates more opportunities** for Australian grain and in particular mid-tier and smaller exporters from Australia.

IMPROVING MARKET ACCESS CONT.

The Austrade webinar featured:

- Opening comments by Australian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr Mark Donovan, who also happens to be a farmer from NSW.
- SAGO Deputy Governor Dr Mohammed Al Amri gave a presentation on the move away from Government to the private sector for the grain imports, noting that to date 23 companies had registered with SAGO to import grain.
- GTA, GAL and AEGIC provided an overview of the Australian grain (barley) sector, focusing on its quality, the clean safe production systems and the quality assurance processes within the Australian grain supply chain, as described in the Code of Practice. The key message promoted was the Saudi importers could approach Australian exporter with confidence in the product and the shipment of Australian grain.
- In 2021/22 over 3mmt of Australian grain, including 2.8mmt of barley has been imported into Saudi Arabia. With the increased market liberalisation SAGO expects the size of the **barley market in Saudi Arabia** to stabilize at **approximately 4-5mmt per annum**.

GRAIN STORAGE ASSETS AND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

- Drafting of the Grain Storage, Assets and Management Standard has begun.
- This task, funded by the government under the Congestion Busting agenda and managed through a **joint government and GTA project** has progressed to the stage of preparing a first draft of the Standard outline for review by both industry and government in Jan-Feb 2022.
- The Standard will be a voluntary framework for adoption by industry sectors such as Export Registered Establishments, exporters, grain storage facility operators and handlers. It is expected relevant elements of the Standard will also apply and be adopted by the domestic grain sector.
- *Why is the Standard needed?*
 - The grain industry is increasingly faced with a fragmented supply chain which makes the task of managing quality, food safety and quarantine issues difficult.
 - The Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment's (DAWE) current regulations do not allow for the recognition of alternative assurance to produce export compliant grain. The goal of the project is to develop a Standard to bring consistency across the supply chain of management systems and for DAWE to recognise these systems in export regulation.
- *The benefit of the Standard and broader project is:*
 - Reduced cost, improved efficiency for both industry and the DAWE, through the Reduction in both audit activity and the reliance on government Authorised Officers by DAWE.
 - Increased market access, improved business efficiency and commercial advantage by delivering a competitive advantage for grain export supply participants.
 - A greater level of assurance through enhanced confidence across the export grain supply chain.
 - Reduced costs, reduced errors, risk, increased market access through gaining data from the transfer of grain sample assessment results to the Plant Export Management System to validate system effectiveness
- *The complete future state is expected to provide:*
 - An industry run Standard which is recognised by DAWE as meeting its legislative requirements.
 - An audit and assurance framework which clearly demonstrates how the Standard is administered and monitored/verified (including the use of technology) both from a DAWE and industry perspective.
 - A reduction in regulatory intervention by DAWE in recognition of an increased level of assurance through the Standard, technology, and industry verification system in place.

GRAIN STORAGE ASSETS AND MANAGEMENT STANDARDS CONT.

- A sound legal framework to support the arrangement.
- Setting a base line for industry management of grain and a measurable performance of that, as required under various adopted systems such as the Australian grain industry Code of Practice.
- Further information and access to the draft Standard will be provided by GTA as information and material becomes available.

A FARMER GUIDE TO SELLING GRAIN

- To support the grain industry self-regulation process and framework GTA takes responsibility for the industry professional culture and image by providing training and professional development. GTA training and professional development programs including the [Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice Assessment Program](#) are an important part of industry stewardship.
- In response to engagement with several grower groups, GTA has recently developed a **specific grain producer workshop – A Farmer Guide to Selling Grain**. This short 3-hour on-line workshop conducted by GTA Trainer Lloyd George is targeted at growers selling grain into the market.
- It includes what growers need to know about GTA Trade Rules & Contracts, good practices, dispute mechanisms and contract management and can be an invaluable tool to assist in the education of industry participants.
- For GTA members **that interface with grain producers** this specific grain producer workshop is considered a **great opportunity** to coordinate and offer **training to your grower clients** to assist them better understand the market and how to manage their grain sales.



A Guide to Selling Grain Using Grain Contracts

Please contact admin@Graintrade.org.au if you see value in this opportunity for your grower clients and wish to coordinate a training session in the future.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING FOR EXPORT COMPLIANCE - TRAINING COMING

- Representative Sampling of grain is fundamental to the facilitation of export trade.
- DAWE and the grain industry share an objective to have an agreed industry process for sampling grain under each sampling scenario at various stages along the supply chain.
- GTA in conjunction with industry representatives and government have developed [GTA Technical Guidelines Document \(No. 21 Grain Sampling for all scenarios\)](#) as a reference for the development of DAWE's *Prescribed Goods Export Preparation Standard* (PGEPS). Adherence to the DAWE PGEPS is now a **mandatory requirement in the export of grain** from Australia with the regulation codified in the first half of 2021.

REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLING FOR EXPORT COMPLIANCE - TRAINING COMING CONT

- **Failure to comply** with sampling procedures and to provide representative samples of each consignment as outlined in the PGEPS may result in the **inability to** complete the **export** certification process.
- Importing country and commercial requirements are becoming more complex due to increasing consumer expectations and sensitivity to food safety and social and environmental issues. This requires the industry to evolve, adapt and improve its quality assurance systems and processes to meet consumer expectations. The **collection of grain to form a representative sample to an industry Standard** is critical to the quality assurance process.
- Grain being prepared for export must be sourced from supplies that have been assessed for pest and contamination risks and considered to meet the importing country requirements and Australian export legislation. Exporters are now responsible for ensuring that only export compliant goods are presented to an AO for export assessment/inspection.
- Exporters must detail how prescribed goods intended for export are selected and pest and contamination levels are assessed for phytosanitary purposes. It is the exporter's responsibility to ensure that goods are export compliant from the time a declaration is made in the Notice of Intent/Request For Permit (NOI/RFP) until the time the goods are exported.

ON-LINE Training

- To support industry compliance with the PGEPS, **GTA is developing an on-line training program on the correct preparation of representative samples.** The training will be important for all exporters and will focus on both the PGEPS and representative sample preparation.
- This on-line training program **will shortly go live** and GTA will soon be contacting all relevant GTA members to engage and to provide this training program for industry participants.

SUPPLY CHAIN BENCHMARKING DASHBOARD

- International benchmarking helps organisations evaluate the performance of Australian supply chains, and was a key action called for by industry during the development of the Government's Australian National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.
- In August 2019, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development (DITC&RS) engaged LEK Consulting to **undertake a benchmarking study**, developing a methodology and comparing Australia's supply chains with relevant international comparators.
- This study included a review of the **Australian Grain Supply Chain**. GTA was included as a stakeholder in this study, attending several online meetings and through the provision of information.
- The reports are **now available publicly** including the new Supply Chain Benchmarking Dashboard, developed by the CSIRO.
- This **CSIRO Dashboard** models Australian supply chains and provides a comprehensive set of benchmarks to assist performance evaluation and international comparison. This project objective is to provide information to industries and government to better inform transport infrastructure decision making.

SUPPLY CHAIN BENCHMARKING DASHBOARD CONT

- The interactive dashboard currently covers 130 commodities, and around 65 per cent of road and 95 per cent of rail freight trips. The benchmarks provide insights on:
 - Freight task costs and value, including cost per payload tonne or kilometre;
 - Travel distances and durations; and
 - Supply chain movements between businesses.
- Access the Supply Chain Benchmarking Dashboard is available at
 - www.freightaustralia.gov.au/dashboard
 - <https://benchmark.transit.csiro.au/>
 - <https://minister.infrastructure.gov.au/joyce/media-release/boosting-australias-freight-and-supply-chain-performance>

WA SHIPPING PROTOCOLS - AN UPDATE AND DIRECTIONS

- The Western Australian (WA) Government in September 2021 had announced the implementation of stringent measures to successfully manage the risks with COVID-19 since the start of the pandemic.
- With the advent of the Delta strain and the rising case numbers around the world the WA government has given notice to vessel owners, charterers, masters, exporters, importers and the shipping industry generally of the WA Government's changes to its expectations and approach in managing COVID-19 risks from commercial shipping.
- The restrictions and protective measures were outlined in a [GTA Member Update No. 14 of 21 WA Notice to the Shipping Industry - COVID-19](#)
- GTA members and in particular CBH have continued to discuss the practical implementation of this WA Government Notice to the Shipping Industry. As a result of further review and consideration the **WA government has released an Update and Directions:**
 - ◊ The Directions state that vessels arriving in WA ports from Higher Risk Locations will **now only be required** to submit completed **Vessel Declaration forms** to the WA Dept of Transport which confirm that:
 - * **No crew change has taken place in a Higher Risk Location (currently Indonesia) within the period 28 days before planned arrival in a WA waters**
 - * **Negative Rapid Antigen Test results for all crew have been recorded as at the date of departure from the Higher Risk Location port**
- The WA Chief Health Officer (CHO) has designated several Indonesian provinces as Higher Risk Locations. Ports affected will include Jakarta, Surabaya, Batam, Panjang, Balikpapan, Bahadopi and Cilicap.
- The Higher Risk Location designation will last 3 months from the commencement date of CHO's determination, unless extended by the CHO.
- Failure to complete and submit a timely Declaration will bring attention to the vessel and may result in a decision by the SEC that the vessel poses an unacceptable risk to the state.
- There will be a grace period from the execution date of the Directions to allow industry to adjust to the new requirements. Any vessels departing an affected Indonesian port from the nominated date will be required to submit a Declaration form. The length of the grace period will be confirmed as soon as possible.
- **Forms will shortly be available for download** from a page on the WA Gov website and can be completed by the vessel's master or their representative and submitted via email to a dedicated DoT email address.

WA SHIPPING PROTOCOLS - AN UPDATE AND DIRECTIONS CONT.

- Comprehensive **Covid Management Protocols** are still requested but **are no longer absolute requirements under these Directions**. They will be useful in demonstrating company accountability for Covid risk mitigation and may also inform any deliberations of the WA Dept of Transport (DoT) and the Panel regarding non-compliant Declarations.
- The onus will be on shipping agents and other representatives of the vessel to ensure Declarations are lodged in a timely manner with the DoT.
- On publication of the Directions, DoT will provide further detailed advice and the relevant webpage and email addresses.

DIGITAL COMMODITY VENDOR DECLARATION

The image shows a digital form titled "GRAIN COMMODITY VENDOR DECLARATION" from Grain Trade Australia. The form is divided into several sections:

- VENDOR'S DETAILS:** Fields for Name, Address, Town, Tel, Fax, Email, and National Business Registration (NBR) No.
- BUYER'S DETAILS:** Fields for Name, Address, Town, Tel, Fax, and Email.
- GRAIN DETAILS:** A section for "Commodity" with fields for Variety, Quantity, and Delivery Period. It also includes a field for "Contract Number (where applicable)".
- Declaration:** A section with two main parts:
 - Part 1: A declaration that the grain is grown or stored in a facility with chemical residue management, and the name of the program is provided.
 - Part 2: A declaration that the grain is delivered against this receipt, with sub-sections for:
 - 1.0: Not treated with a coating, compound, or other seed treatment.
 - 2.1: Not treated with any fungicide/pesticide/insecticide.
 - 2.2: Treated with a fungicide/pesticide/insecticide, with sub-points:
 - in accordance with the registered label of those chemicals.
 - all rates not exceeding the maximum rates set out on the label.
 - the withholding period for those chemicals has been observed.
- Chemical Applied Table:** A table with columns for "Chemical Applied", "Rate", and "Application Date".
- Signature and Date:** Fields for "Vendor's signature" and "Date".
- Footer:** Grain Trade Australia logo and contact information: "Grain Trade Australia (GTA) PO Box 81420, West Perth WA 6009. Phone: +61 8 9229 2155 Fax: +61 8 9229 0188 Email: admin@graintrade.org.au".

- Data transactions performed within the grain supply chain can be complex and may be further complicated when a sale is involved in 'a string' of sales. GTA members will be aware of the frustration when an error in paperwork or lost information occurs and the delay it can cause.
- GTA members should be aware of and consider moving where possible to introduce the digital capture of information including the transfer of grain treatment/fumigation history such as Commodity Vendor Declarations.
- Commercial offerings of digital CVDs are now available to the grain industry for both grain producers and trade participants. The greater the number of participants that choose to adopt digital data capture will hopefully result in a lessening of the burden associated with paper/PDF data transactions.

AGM 2021—BOARD APPOINTMENTS

GTA 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on 26 October 2021



Nominations were sought for the following classes of GTA membership, to fill three Director Positions. These vacancies included:

- Ordinary Level A - to fill one vacant Director position
- Ordinary Level C - to fill one vacant Director position
- Merchant Association - to fill one vacant Director position

Nominations received for these positions were:

- Ordinary Level A – Jason Craig, nominated by CBH Group
- Ordinary Level C – Michelle Kerr, nominated Rural Logic
- Merchant Association – Rob Imray, nominated by QAM

The following Directors with Special Qualifications were appointed for the 2021/2022 year:

- Andrew Goyder
- Geoff Farnsworth
- Simon Tickner

Voting was conducted at the AGM on 26 October 2021. Members were entitled to vote either during virtual AGM meeting or by proxy.

Appointments

No	Director Appointment	Category	Nominating GTA Member	Status
1	Andrew Goyder (Chair)	Special Qualifications (Chair)	Appointed by the Board	Re-appointed 26.10.21
2	Geoff Farnsworth	Special Qualifications (Legal)	Appointed by the Board	Re-appointed 26.10.21
3	Simon Tickner	Special Qualifications (Production)	Appointed by the Board	Re-appointed 26.10.21
4	Robert Imray	Director - Merchant Association	QAM	Re-elected on 26.10.21
5	Jason Craig	Director - Ordinary Level A	CBH Group	Re-elected on 26.10.21
6	Michelle Kerr	Director - Ordinary Level C	Rural Logic	Re-elected on 26.10.21
7	Daniel Marsh	Director - Merchant Association	Grain NSW	Elected on 29.10.19
8	Michael Wood	Director - Merchant Association	GIAV - Victoria	Re-elected on 27.10.20
9	Lyndon Asser	Director - Ordinary Level A	Glencore Agriculture	Re-elected on 27.10.20
10	Richard Perkins	Director - Ordinary Level B	Arrow Commodities	Elected on 27.10.20
11	Ole Houe	Director - Ordinary Level B	Agfarm	Re-elected on 29.10.19

Board positions & committees

The following appointments were made in the Board Meeting following the AGM.

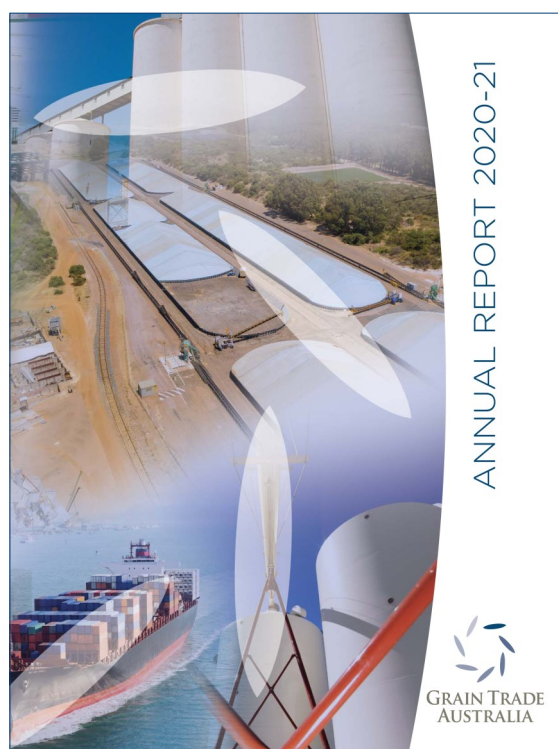
- GTA Chair – Andrew Goyder
- GTA Deputy Chairs – Michelle Kerr and Daniel Marsh

The structure of the Board Committees is as follows:

Board Committees 2021/2022

Audit, Finance & Remuneration	ESG (Environment, Social, Governance)	AGIC - Business
Robert Imray (Chair)	Andrew Goyder (Chair)	Pat O'Shannassy (Chair)
Andrew Goyder	Lyndon Asser	Michelle Kerr
Richard Perkins	Geoff Farnsworth	Simon Tickner
Daniel Marsh	Jason Craig	Richard Perkins
Jason Craig	Simon Tickner	Daniel Marsh
Ole Houe	Michelle Kerr	Ole Houe
Michael Wood	Michael Wood	
Membership	Dispute Resolution Service	
Ole Houe (Chair)	Geoff Farnsworth (Chair)	
Geoff Farnsworth	Michelle Kerr	
Simon Tickner	Michael Wood	
Lyndon Asser	Ole Houe	
	Richard Perkins	

GTA Annual Report 2020-2021 is now available on [GTA website](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS



Grain Harvest & Beyond Webinar

Information on visa options and travel exemptions

4 NOVEMBER 2021 11:30AM AEDT

[REGISTER NOW FOR GRAIN HARVEST & BEYOND](#)

Grains Harvest & Beyond - Visa options and travel exemptions webinar hosted jointly by Grain Trade Australia and Department of Home Affairs.

This webinar is designed to address the issue of workforce shortages within the grain supply chain and transportation networks.

This webinar is complimentary (free) for all of the industry participants.



Chain of Responsibility. Are you complacent or compliant?

Farmers



Grain Buyers & Brokers



Freight Providers



Storage & Handlers



End Users



[REGISTER NOW FOR FREE CoR TRAINING](#)

The course consists of 3 online modules which take around 30 minutes each to complete. These can be done all at once, or over a period of time, whatever suits your schedule. You can complete the course on mobile, tablet or desktop. At the end of the three modules you'll understand the fundamentals of CoR, who is responsible and when, what part you play, where you fit and where your obligations lie along the chain. The course also covers off due diligence, risk management and safety management systems, and how to practically implement CoR in your business, or on your farm.