

21 June 2024

Joint Standing Committee on Investment & Growth
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Attention: Committee Secretariat – Via email to jsctig@aph.gov.au

Re - Inquiry into the Understanding and Utilisation of Benefits under Free Trade Agreements

Submission from Grain Trade Australia

1.0 About GTA

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is a national association and is the focal point for the commercial grains industry within Australia. The role of GTA is to provide a framework across Industry to facilitate and promote the trade of grain. GTA facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy, and commercial support services to the Australian grain value chain. GTA Members are responsible for over 95% of all grain storage and freight movements made each year in Australia. Over 95% of the grain contracts executed in Australia each year refer to GTA Grain Trading Standards and/or Trade Rules.

GTA has established the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice. All GTA Members are required to adhere to the Code of Practice. GTA Members are drawn from all sectors of the grain value chain from production to domestic end users and exporters. GTA has over 280 organisations as members. Their businesses range from regional family businesses to large national and international trading/storage and handling companies who are involved in grain trading activities, grain storage, processing grain for human consumption and stock feed milling. A list of GTA Members is [here](#) and attached.

GTA welcomes the opportunity to make this submission to the inquiry into the understanding and utilisation of benefits under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs).

2.0 Introduction

The Australian grain industry¹ is a major economic contributor in regional Australia and to export revenue, with annual value of production in 2022/23 forecast (excluding rice) to be a record \$33 billion at the farm gate and \$31.3 b of exports², meaning the grain industry is the highest value industry in the agriculture sector, contributing more than 33% of Australia's agricultural gross value of production annually.

The industry achieved record summer and winter production in 2022/23 at 73.6 million tonnes following two prior large crops with 2021/22 a 68.0 million tonne crop, and 59.9 million tonnes in 2020/21.

Trade is vital for the Australian grain industry and regional communities, with the Australian grain industry being highly export oriented e.g., 65 -75% of grain is exported. The Australian grain industry is well positioned to supply markets especially into regions such as south east Asia.

¹ Grains include wheat, coarse grains, oilseeds, oilseed meals and pulses

² Source: ABARES, 2024

