

18th January 2022

Plant Health Committee
Department of Agriculture, Water & the Environment
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Via email: plantpestpreparedness@awe.gov.au

Re: NATIONAL HITCHHIKER (Contaminating) PLANT PEST ACTION PLAN 2022-2032

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) welcomes the opportunity to provide input on the draft National Hitchhiker Plant Pest Action Plan 2022-2032.

Having a national coordinated plan and approach to preventing hitchhiker plant pests coming to Australia is of critical importance to GTA members and the Australian grain and wider agricultural industry.

Grain Trade Australia's Role:

GTA is the focal point for the commercial grain industry within Australia. It facilitates trade and works to provide an efficient, equitable and open trading environment by providing leadership, advocacy, and commercial services to the Australian grain value chain. GTA is non-political, industry driven with a primary **focus to ensure the efficient facilitation of commercial activities across the grain supply chain** including a strong focus on the logistics of grain through transport, storage, and ports.

GTA has over 280 organisations as members ranging from regional family businesses to large national and international trading, storage and handling companies, grain marketers, consumers, and processors.

Support for the draft National Hitchhiker Plant Pest Action Plan 2022-2032 (Plan)

GTA and its members understand the importance for all sectors of the Australian grain supply chain, and more specifically its grain producers to have plans in place to mitigate the threat of pests entering Australia especially during periods of congestion and supply disruption caused by COVID-19.

Review of the Plan indicates it is a suitable approach to the risk of incursive pests into Australia. GTA notes the role of specific industry organisations, including government, in implementing various actions regarding pest incursions and supports the ongoing activities as outlined in the Plan.

GTA also recognises the role of all grain industry stakeholders in actioning areas outlined in the plan. GTA supports and endorses the Plan as drafted and has in the past and will continue to work proactively and collaboratively with all levels of government and industries and research agencies to ensure the Plan and its objectives are achieved.

GTA is an active participant on the DAWE GPPEICC and is actively engaged on matters relating to pest incursions. GTA provides regular updates to industry members on GPPEICC matters and more specifically issues related to pest incursions. Khapra beetle is a recent example where GTA have attended and represented its members at various meetings with DAWE and provided updates as required to its members. Where relevant GTA will continue to provide assistance and input into actions and activities required by industry and government to prevent incursions and provide communication to its members.

In relation to pest incursion, as advised previously to DAWE by GTA, a major concern for GTA and the grain industry is container imports and the potential for containers (and any goods within that are imported) to harbour unwarranted pests. Ongoing vigilance and focus in this area by international governments, the Australian governments and agencies and by industry is critical to the success in prevention of incursions.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft National Hitchhiker Plant Pest Action Plan 2022-2032. Please feel free to contact me if further information or input is required.

Yours faithfully,



Pat O'Shannassy
CEO