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Media Release – For Immediate Release

GTA revises the Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) has announced the release of the revised Australian Grain Industry Code of Practice (Code) for the management of grain along the supply chain. GTA, with the support of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR) have undertaken an extensive review of the Code to ensure its continued integrity and relevance to Industry.

The Code of Practice, the Transport Code of Practice and associated twenty Technical Guideline Documents (TGDs), outlining the base requirements for participation in the Australian grain value chain, are available on the GTA website at www.graintrade.org.au.

GTA CEO, Mr Pat O’Shannassy said “the Code is a key component of the industry driven self-regulatory framework supported by GTA’s products and services. The grain industry should be proud of its reputation and its pro-active self-management of the value chain. In many other grain producing countries regulation is imposed by government across their grain supply chains. Australian industry self-management is of enormous benefit for all participants and results in the industry remaining flexible and focused on delivering value to growers and customers alike”.

“The Code provides customers of Australian grain with confidence in terms of the quality and the processes used to manage grain throughout the supply chain. The Code provides this confidence and, through its use, reduces risk and creates value for participants at each stage of the value chain” Mr O’Shannassy said.

As part of the revised Code, GTA is implementing a new Code Assessment Program. Industry participants will be able to complete the Program via an on-line assessment tool, enabling demonstration of their understanding of, and compliance with the Code.

Mr O’Shannassy said, “The introduction of the Code Assessment Program will make for a stronger grain industry for the benefit of participants in the value chain. The Program will enable Industry employers to demonstrate their adherence to the Code by supporting their employees to undertake the Code Assessment Program”, Mr O’Shannassy added.

Mr O’Shannassy noted the Code review process included the involvement of technical experts, consultation and submissions from industry and review by an Industry Working Group. The Industry Working Group included representation from the production sector, transport operators, port and storage operators, container packers and exporters – small and large.

“The Code is targeted to benefit all participants across the grain supply chain - including growers, supply chain managers, marketers and most importantly our customers, and compliance is mandatory for all GTA members” stated Mr O’Shannassy.

The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, who provided funding for the review, have endorsed the code. Head of Plant Biosecurity at the department, Dr Marion Healy said “The department is pleased to endorse the Code for all grain industry participants and encourages industry to continue to ensure Australia’s reputation as a reliable supplier of clean and safe agricultural products is maintained and enhanced.”

About GTA:

Grain Trade Australia (GTA) is the focal point for the commercial grain industry within Australia. 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 standards and/or trade rules.

The role of GTA is to provide a framework across Industry to facilitate and promote the trade of grain. It provides a foundation upon which the grain industry can operate with confidence meaning participants of the grain value chain can originate grain from producers, manage price and logistical risks, and manage the task of moving grain from farm and central storage to domestic and off-shore destination markets with confidence in the grain product and the terms of trade. GTA plays its part in the value chain by providing core products of Trading Standards, Contracts, Trade Rules, Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, Professional Development and advocacy for Market Access to give the industry a sound foundation for the commerce of grain

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