



GRAIN PRODUCERS AUSTRALIA

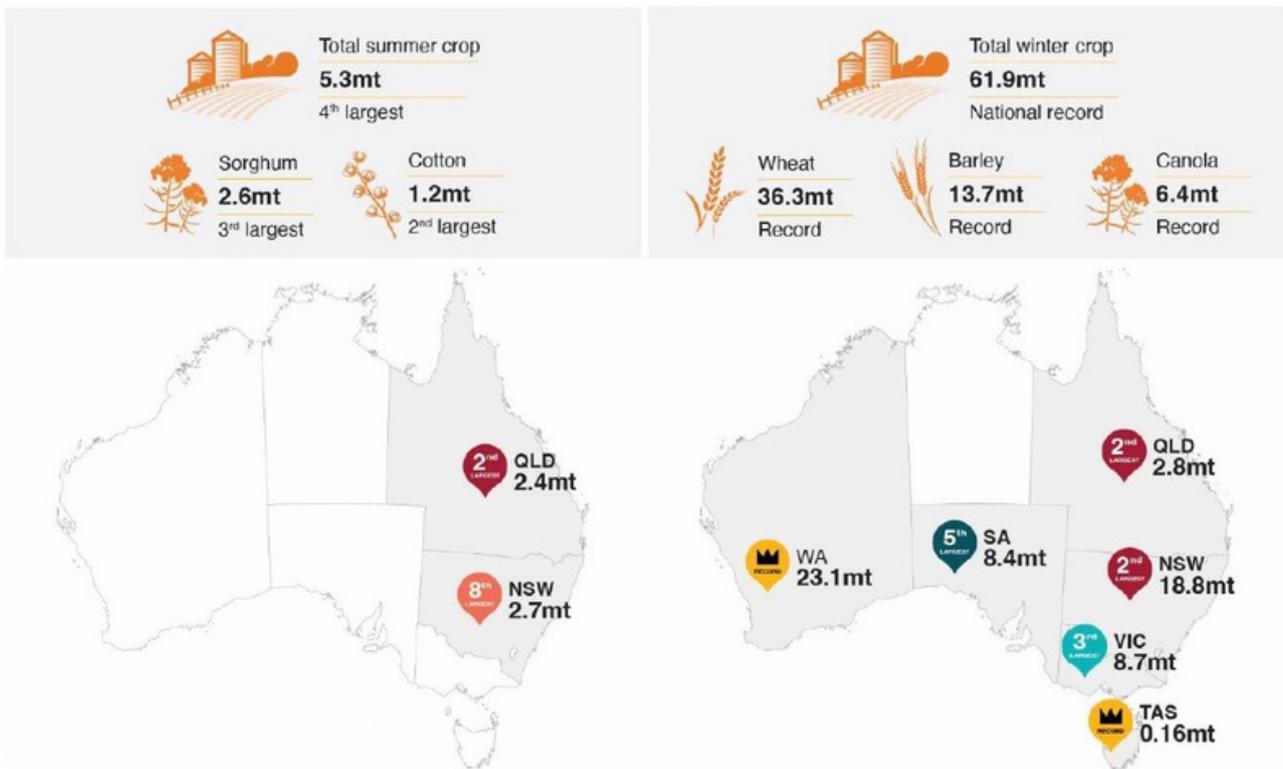
2022 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES



AUSTRALIAN GRAIN PRODUCTION 2021-22

- Winter crop production forecast national record of **61.9 million tonnes**.
- Wheat production forecast record **\$12.3 billion**, driven by record production and high prices.
- Australian wheat exports forecast to increase by 26% to record **\$10.3 billion**.
- Canola production record of **\$6.3 billion**.
- Barley production forecast to increase by 23% to record **\$3.8 billion**.
- Sorghum production forecast at **\$880 million**, more than double the 5-year average to 2020–21.
- Farm cash income for cropping farms expected to increase by around 40% to **\$572,000 per farm**.

Figure 1 Summer and winter crop production, Australia, 2021–22



Source: ABARES

AUSTRALIAN GRAIN PRODUCERS PAYING RECORD INPUT PRICES



(Source * Thomas Elders Markets, March 2022)

According to ABS, in 2019-20, there were:

- 28,800 businesses growing cereal and broadacre crops
- 61 million tonnes of cereal and broadacre crops produced,
- 21 million hectares of cereal and broadacre crops planted

Broadacre farms are the largest employers in Australian agriculture. [ABARES](#) survey data indicates broadacre farms used an average of 159,300 workers across 2018-19. Broadacre farms include sheep, beef, cropping and mixed farms, totalling 62% of Australian farm businesses.

72pc of Australia's agricultural produce is exported including 67pc of wheat and 65pc of canola.

The value of our exports has fluctuated between \$40 billion and \$60 billion since 2001-02.

China is our largest export market for agricultural, fisheries and forestry at \$12 billion in 2020-21.

Over 90% of the daily food consumed in Australia is made by Australian farmers
Australian farmers produce enough food for 80 million people.

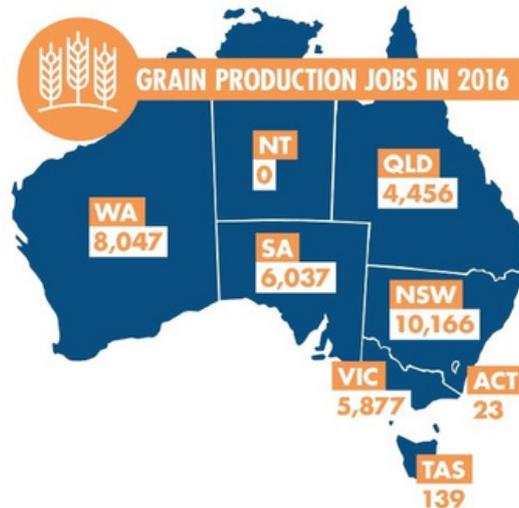
GRDC and RAI research says grains makes up roughly a quarter of Australia's agriculture value – and the value created by the grains industry is more than the headline production value figures.

Grain production jobs are generally most important in small regional economies, where there are limited other industries providing employment.

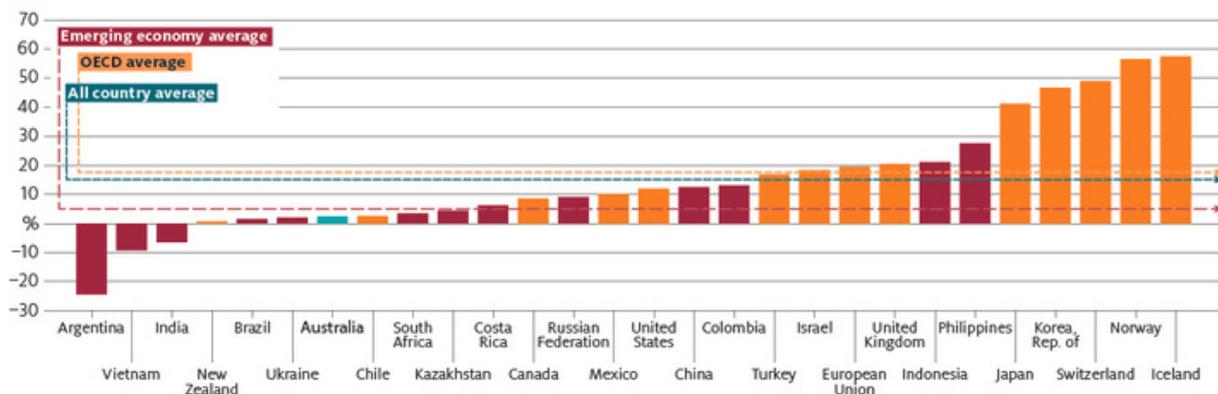
For every 100,000 tonnes of grain produced, there is on average 87 grain production jobs in the Northern Growing Region, 121 in the Southern Growing Region and 54 in the Western Growing Region. [Source](#)

EMPLOYMENT IN THE GRAINS INDUSTRY

In 2016, there were 34,745 grain production jobs across Australia. This count is direct employment in the growing of grain, cotton and rice, as well as integrated grain-sheep and grain-cattle production. The bulk of these jobs are in New South Wales (29 per cent) and Western Australia (23 per cent), followed by South Australia, Victoria and Queensland (17 per cent, 17 per cent and 13 per cent respectively) (Figure 1). These figures do not include the number of farm managers, where their occupation may be 'manager' rather than a form of grain producer.



Government support of Australia's agricultural sector is very low compared to the 37 member countries of the OECD and other major emerging agricultural producers. The average level of support (as a share of gross farm receipts) for all countries was 15.1% between 2018 and 2020, compared to Australia at just 2.5%. [ABARES](#)



Many broadacre cropping farms retain stubble (85% of farms), minimise tillage (68% of farms) and optimise the use of (and reduce reliance on) pesticides or fertiliser (65% of farms). [ABARES](#)



ABOUT GRAIN PRODUCERS AUSTRALIA

Since 2010, [Grain Producers Australia](#) has represented Australia's broadacre grain producers on national issues. GPA develops national policy and advocates outcomes to help boost the profitability and sustainability of grain producers, with flow-on economic benefit for rural communities.

GPA also has specific roles and responsibilities under federal legislation, representing an estimated 22,500 Australian grain producers who pay compulsory levies equal to 1.02 per cent of their sales. These are for oversight of grains RD&E investments, biosecurity and chemical use/market access.

GPA's membership and governance model includes direct grain producer members, and grower members of the Grains Councils of State Farming Organisations throughout Australia. Elected leaders represent their States on GPA's Policy Council, supported by their professional policy managers and executives. The GPA Board also comprises grower directors, representing Australia's major grain growing regions, and independent skills-based directors. This inclusive representative structure, backed by genuine grass-roots policy setting processes, provides a strong and dynamic voice for growers to engage with and deliver advocacy and outcomes that help build a more innovative, competitive, profitable and sustainable grains industry.

GPA's 2022 Election Policy Priorities has been developed through these inclusive grass-roots processes engaging GPA's Policy Council and members:

- Agforce Grains
- Grain Producers SA
- NSW Farmers Association
- Victorian Farmers' Federation Grains Group
- Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers Association
- WA Farmers Grains Council
- WA Grains Group



GPA Chair and WA grain producer, Barry Large.



SETTING THE SCENE FOR GRAIN PRODUCER PRIORITIES

Grain is the second biggest agricultural production sector in Australia and therefore a significant contributor to the national economy, and the prosperity of regional communities. Some estimates place the average value of Australia's grains industry at \$13 billion. However, last harvest produced a forecast record 62 million tonne crop, [valued](#) at about \$26 billion. This year's Federal Election represents a significant opportunity to invest these significant returns into the grains sector's future, to deliver greater long-term value and resilience.

A core theme of GPA's 2022 Federal Election Priorities is to seek Federal Government backing for initiatives and projects that can deliver these outcomes and flow-on benefits such as job creation. This also reflects our submissions to different inquiries in recent years such as the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources [Inquiry](#) into growing Australian agriculture to \$100 billion by 2030. It also reflects the strategic priorities and work of our State Members. For example, Grain Producers SA issued a State Election Priority Plan in February 2022 which supports initiatives aimed at deliver a \$6 billion industry by 2030, guided by their industry's strategic blueprint.

GPA's Federal Election Priorities also calls for government support for policies and initiatives that can help reduce pressures on core input costs for Australian grain producers, to help grow overall industry value and enhanced sustainability. Support for these programs, with targeted investments, will help to minimise production costs and create additional investment opportunities to bolster long-term drought resilience. It also limits our exposure to significant supply chain risks

and vulnerabilities, caused by external factors. With the threat of conflict between Russia and the Ukraine, and after two years of COVID-19, these negative supply chain influences will continue to have significant impacts with economic pressures.

As cost of production pressures continue to escalate, this lost profitability severely impacts the sustainability of grain producers and their communities. More needs to be done now to capture greater profitability for growers to deliver long-term resilience. This will help farming communities manage drought and other seasonal fluctuations and reduce volatility. This past [season](#) is a prime example of these escalating challenges and fluctuations with Australian growers fighting to control frost events, mouse plagues, labour supply shortages and severe storms and floods damaging crop quality at harvest and reducing returns.

The more government can do to invest at this time and support producers proactively in these core production areas, the less need for direct government subsidies or intervention, in future, to help manage climate risks and seasonal volatility challenges. This is especially critical given Australian grain producers compete in global markets against other exporting countries that provide significant government [policies](#), to directly support their producers.

There is an urgent imperative for government to take action, with the National Farmers' Federation estimating the cost of disruption to international trade, including sanctions imposed by China, will cost the industry close to \$40 billion over the next [decade](#). GPA's Election Priorities also reflects core themes of the Federal Government's seven themes of 'Delivering Ag2030' which outlines specific goals and programs to support the farm sector's aspirations to reach \$100 billion by 2030. Investment in biosecurity, to deliver a safer and more modern, effective and cohesive system is also critical to our members. Protecting Australia's biosecurity status and reputation supports market access and avoids unnecessary costs and disruptions for producers. Optimising market competition, increasing local manufacturing, opening export market access, reducing freight costs, cutting red tape, providing more skilled workers on grain farms and delivering faster, more reliable digital connectivity, will also help to achieve these goals and support growers. Continuous improvement in farm safety and industry [safety](#) is also a key priority and supported by project initiatives, for GPA.

GPA welcomes the opportunity to engage with all government and industry stakeholders on these plans to help deliver a more profitable and sustainable industry.

SUMMARY OF GPA'S 2022 FEDERAL ELECTION POLICY PRIORITIES

1.	Increase Supply of Skilled Workers on Grain Farms
2.	Better Digital Connectivity to Boost Farm Productivity
3.	ACCC to Conduct Study of Australian Grain Markets to Optimise Competition
4.	Increase Government Investment in Local Manufacturing Initiatives
5.	Grow Export Trade and Market Access for Australian Grains
6.	High Level Strategic Analysis/Investment to Reduce Grain Freight Costs
7.	Increased Focus on Preventative Biosecurity Measures to Protect Australian Grains
8.	Improved Access and Application for Agricultural Pesticides and Technology
9.	Remove Restrictive Grains Industry Red Tape and Costs
10.	Improved Independent Oversight of Grain Levies
11.	Strategic Taxation Reforms to Optimise Farm Resilience and Production
12.	Sharpen Grain Farm and Community Focus of Sustainability and Resilience Programs



PRIORITY 1. INCREASE SUPPLY OF SKILLED WORKERS ON GRAIN FARMS

GPA has [strongly advocated](#) the critical need to increase the supply of skilled workers to operate heavy machinery during peak surge periods, such as harvest and seeding. This need has been exacerbated by ongoing shortages caused by COVID-19 and subsequent State and International border closures leading up to and during the last winter harvest. GPA's advocacy and policy work built on our submission to the National Agricultural Workforce Strategy which included a number of pilot program ideas, of which three proposals were noted in the final [strategy](#). GPA's advocacy, in collaborating with other concerned groups such as the Australian Custom Harvesters Association, led to a number of positive initiatives based on a National Action Plan implemented in mid-2021. This was highlighted by a new program run by volunteers, working with GPA's State Members – in particular WAFarmers, AgForce Grains and NSWFarmers – where former ADF members connected with farmers needing labour, via social media. This volunteer initiative – Operation Grain Harvest Assist – provided mutually beneficial outcomes with workers to support our grain farmers at a critical time, while giving the former ADF members a greater sense of purpose through this work and opportunities for career transition and future employment.

A Grains Industry Working Group was also established, with support through Agriculture Minister David Littleproud's Department, aimed at developing medium and long-term solutions, to support the grains industry's labour needs. GPA has also been involved in the Ag-Visa's ongoing design, to ensure it delivers on the grains sector's specific needs and has also written to the Minister and other Federal MPs and Minister highlighting other policy requests; including calls for tax concessions to help incentivise retirees to work in regional areas. GPA has also called on rural

retailers, such as Elders and Nutrien Ag, to allow their staff to take leave without pay, to support their farmer/customers last harvest, throughout Australia. However, this remains a critical priority for our members and more needs to be done to address these specific needs and support productivity.

Policy requests

GPA calls for \$250,000 for a pilot project to support the design and implementation of new specialist training programs, to deliver more workers to perform specific jobs on grain farms such as operating heavy machinery such as harvesters. This includes programs collaborating with industry groups, and using the [GPA Training](#) platform, to help train these workers and provide career development pathways, to promote more women working on grain farms.

GPA calls for government support to fill these skills gaps and train new workers through a 'Paddock-Ready' apprenticeship delivered through TAFE courses and similar education institutions.

To help deliver and retain these jobs with a more secure workforce, **GPA also calls for** government support to provide greater incentives with suitable housing, relocation and immigration programs.

GPA calls for government funding to support the delivery of other training programs and mechanisms to help increase the supply of these skilled workers from other sources, including to support former ADF members to access Operation Grain Harvest [Assist](#) and others such as grey nomads, with transferrable skills and experience needed to help farmers during peak periods.

GPA calls for targeted visa arrangements that provide flexibility to help boost the supply of these skilled workers, so farmers can meet surge capacity during peak periods, such as those from Northern Hemisphere countries. This includes \$200,000 for a project to examine the potential long-term farmer and community benefits of mutual labour exchange programs, on such a skilled visa.

GPA calls for continued support of government programs and initiatives aimed at improving community awareness and education for agriculture, in particular targeting schools with exchange programs so students and teachers can visit farms and see production practices first-hand. This education should not only be science and technology focused, but also provide a deeper understanding of the economic challenges grain farmers face around seasonal and pricing fluctuations, compared to end prices consumers pay for basic products such as bread and other grains-based products. This education should also be replicated online with learning opportunities and tools optimised through the use of digital technologies and innovations.

GPA calls for increased funding for existing [programs](#) to continue delivering pragmatic outcomes and results such as; AgATTRACT, to help shift perceptions of modern agriculture and recognise its diverse career opportunities; AgCAREERSTART, to give school leavers a way to experience work in agriculture; AgUp, for upskilling and career progression.

GPA calls for continued focus and supports for ongoing work to facilitate a targeted update on the Australian New Zealand Standard [Classification](#) to better reflect modern agricultural occupations, especially to deliver outcomes for grain farmers needing skilled workers.

GPA calls for greater incentives and flexibility with taxation laws, in regards to income and asset testing limits, to encourage more retirees to work in rural Australia – especially on grain farms. This can also be supported by funding to GPA for a dedicated campaign to help educate grey nomads of these opportunities, to attract them to visit and live in rural communities.

GPA calls for the same, as above, to incentivise other areas of labour supply such as students, with HECS relief.

GPA calls for ongoing cooperation and collaboration between State and Federal Agriculture Ministers, associated ministers and government officials, to help resolve these labour issues and deliver jobs for grain farmers.

GPA calls for GRDC funding for new projects that support the delivery of farm labour/training and skills development for machinery operators nationwide, to support farm productivity and profitability. This includes a specific focus on exploring opportunities through future access to autonomous farm [machinery](#). This can apply similar approaches and justifications to the AgSkilled partnership between Cotton Australia, GRDC and the NSW Government, which invested \$14.7 million over 3 years from July 2017 to July 2020. [In September 2020](#) the NSW Government announced AgSkilled 2.0 and committed a further \$15 million over 3 years to build workforce capability in NSW's cotton, grains, horticulture, rice and viticulture.



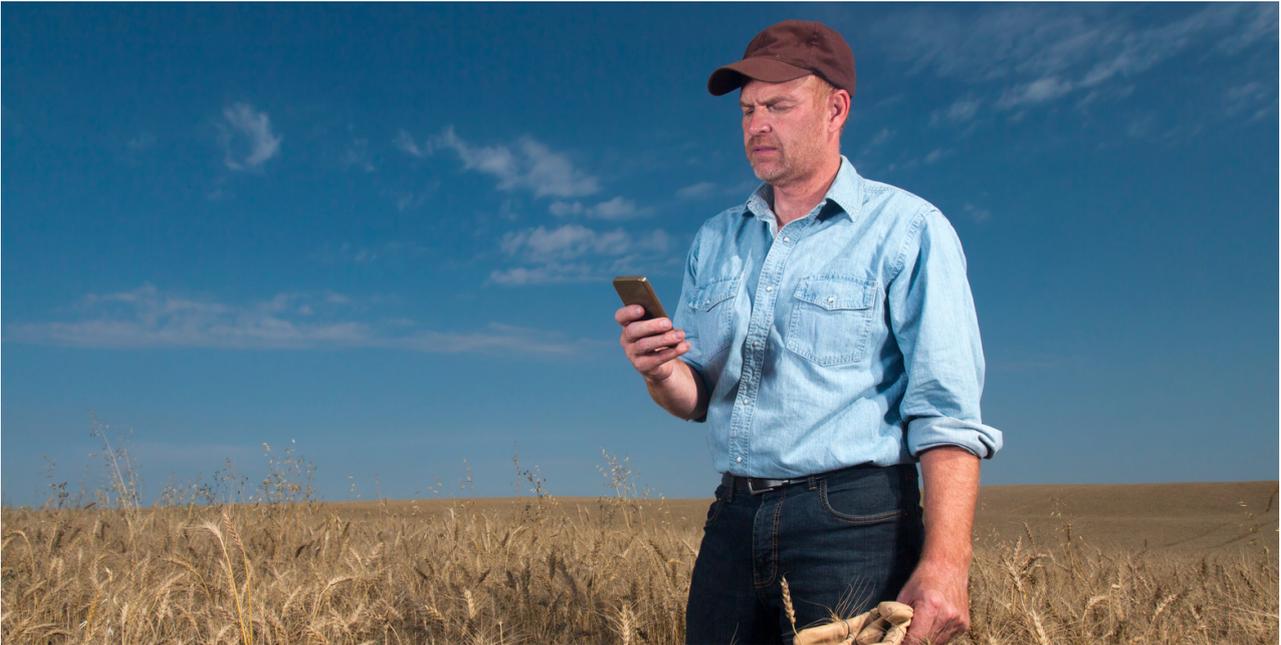
WAFarmers Grains Committee President Mic Fels talking to ABC Landline last year about the impacts of labour shortages in grain farming communities, ahead of the record 2021-22 harvest.



AgForce Grains President, Brendan Taylor, supporting calls to increase the supply of skilled labour for grain producers last harvest, on ABC Landline.



Former ADF Member, Sean 'Spud' Murphy and Phill Eulenstein. Sean worked on Phill and Michelle Eulenstein's farm, 'Boola', located about 65kms north of Moree in NSW, as part of the Operation Grain Harvest Assist program, last harvest.



PRIORITY 2. BETTER DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY TO BOOST FARM PRODUCTIVITY

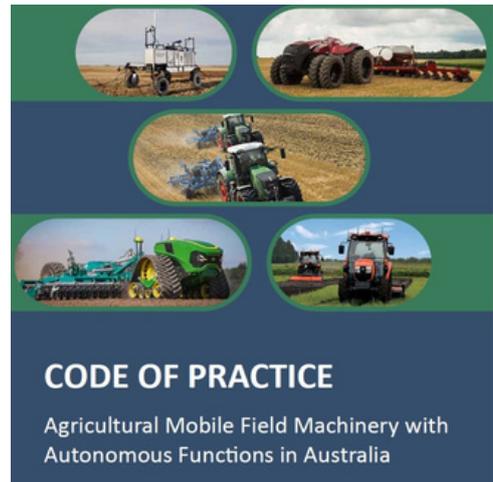
40 per cent of those who responded to GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey said they wanted the Federal Government to prioritise Digital Connectivity, to support the basic productivity of their grain farming businesses. Many comments suggested connectivity is getting worse, not better, in regional Australia. This is not only to the detriment of business efficiency, but also our basic quality of life. GPA knows other farm representative groups are also advocating for better outcomes in this area, and it's also a high priority for our State Members. They are also calling for increased funding to resolve issues such as mobile blackspots. We know this has positive flow-on impacts for regional growth and outcomes in other core government policy areas such as health and education.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to significantly increase investment in regional communications, to deliver new technologies and innovations that lift the productivity and performance of grain farms, such as [autonomous](#) farm machinery. This includes a review of current data transmission frequency allocations to deliver equitable access to field connectivity where this resource is regionally underutilised by telcos. Fast and reliable digital connectivity will also help deliver increased sustainability benefits, while solving other policy headaches through reliable access to these technologies, such as overcoming labour shortages, eg with autonomous farm machinery that's soon to be a commercial choice and reality, for Australian grain farms. The Federal Government's Regional Connectivity Program can be used to increase support to these outcomes.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to provide \$150,000 funding for a dedicated project by GPA to improve engagement and discussion among grain farmers, to help develop communities of support for mental health promotion and suicide prevention. This can be enhanced through the use of digital technologies and innovations to improve access to support services and proactive measures to bolster awareness and education.

GPA calls for dedicated funding for a project to analyse the threats and opportunities with the level of quality of digital connectivity needed to help deliver autonomous farm vehicles and machinery on farms throughout Australia. This should focus on key elements of GPA’s work to provide a Code of Practice to support the future delivery of this technology, and deliver key outcomes such as enhanced safety/human resources, stewardship, productivity and digitally integrated operations.

GPA has developed a Code of Practice, in a joint project working with the Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia and Society of Precision Agriculture Australia, to help drive the future use of autonomous farm vehicles and machinery on farms throughout Australia.





PRIORITY 3.

ACCC TO CONDUCT STUDY OF AUSTRALIAN GRAIN MARKETS TO OPTIMISE COMPETITION

GPA has a long-standing policy urging the Federal Government to approve the ACCC to conduct a [market study](#) of the entire grains supply chain, [sharing this policy position](#) with GrainGrowers Ltd. In September 2021, in responding to the Minister's request on whether industry supported a proposed delay to the scheduled review of the Port Terminal Access (Bulk Wheat) Code of Conduct, this market study policy request was re-submitted, to the Minister and his Department. The Minister's written reply to GPA stated he remained "sympathetic" to growers' concerns, but he wanted to see evidence of such issues, or of the need for an ACCC study, "or similar". GPA subsequently implemented a project which interviewed industry stakeholders on these issues, producing a detailed report with evidence, to meet this request. This study uncovered a raft of serious and concerning competition issues which need to be investigated by the ACCC, in order to be adequately resolved, to ensure growers are adequately protected. This includes the significant issue from the most recent harvest, about the loss of value of up to \$1.25 billion. The study found grower prices in Australia are currently not aligned with international prices. "There will be approximately 25 million tonnes of grains exported this season with a \$50 per tonne discount, and this equates to \$1.25 billion loss to growers for the 2021/22 harvest". Growers have also expressed concerns this shortfall between local and international pricing has been occurring at varying rates over a number of years, except perhaps in drought years on the East Coast. This pricing disparity is also the subject of ongoing [media reporting](#), highlighting the core issues. This was also the number one issue raised by GPA State Members at the harvest review meeting, in January 2022. This lost income reduces profitability, and weakens drought resilience, for producers, rural communities and economies.

While concerned about market transparency and competition, GPA also believes it's beneficial for grain producers, industry and government to conduct a proactive 'health check' of the system. Such a study has not been done, to properly examine competition issues that have emerged either suddenly or gradually, since Australia's wheat export market was de-regulated in 2008. The timing of this high-level analysis is also critical, given the supply chain's operations and capacity are being severely tested by the near record 2021 winter harvest estimated at more than 62 million tonnes, with concerns about capacity and large [carry-over stocks](#).

This now provides the Federal Government an ideal opportunity to make proactive changes that can improve market functionality and operations, and optimise competition. GPA believes this market analysis will provide the Federal Government with the opportunity to use the ACCC's powers of evidence gathering, to drill-down into the issue with high-level analysis, and make recommendations that can strengthen market transparency and operations for all users, not just grain producers. We believe application of Section 95 of the Competition and Consumer Act 2010, allowing the ACCC to use a range of information-gathering powers once the Minister has directed or approved the holding of a price inquiry, is the most effective and appropriate means of resolving these serious matters. An inquiry, minus these special powers, would continue to leave unanswered questions and lingering frustrations for growers and other market participants. Other areas of the ACCC with the necessary independence, depth of knowledge and expertise, gained by monitoring the Wheat Code since its inception, can also be applied to this investigative process, to enhance the intended outcomes. Ultimately, the ACCC's Agriculture Unit was also designed to perform the core function of analysing competition issues to protect growers. Growers are price takers and therefore vulnerable supply chain participants, who are forced to wear the costs of inefficient supply chains and anti-competitive behaviour by participants eg. regional bulk grain handling monopolies.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to approve the ACCC to conduct a market study 'health-check' of the entire grains supply chain, sharing this policy position with GrainGrowers Ltd, as per the above, to optimise competition and protect growers from exposure to anti-competitive behaviour.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to provide this support, recognising and acknowledging unambiguous statements made in DeliveringAg 2030 that 'robust and transparent domestic supply chains underpin a strong, effective Australian agriculture industry and are essential to achieving industry's 2030 goal. We are committed to improving competition and fairness across supply chains'. However, this rhetoric is not matched by the level of investment and attention provided to safeguard producers of Australia's second biggest farm commodity.

GPA calls for a National Roundtable of grains industry stakeholders, expert analysts and government officials, to be held within 100 days of the next government being formed, to engage on these competition matters, as above. This forum will develop a pathway to address these concerns and optimise competition; including drafting the terms of reference for the ACCC inquiry.

GPA calls for the above processes to be used to inform and consider the viability of implementing an independent, effective mechanism to oversight and monitor pricing for grain producers, to improve transparency.



GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey asked whether the Federal Government is doing enough to optimise competition in the Australian grains market and supply chain transparency for growers, with the vast majority responding 'No'. Here are some of the most compelling responses.

"ACCC needs to make fertiliser and chemical markets the subject of urgent and ongoing review."

"Market asymmetry continues largely unabated and largely without acknowledgement politically. The lack of transparency in grain stocks continues and makes it difficult for small operators to compete with the bigger players who still benefit from the infrastructure legacies of a bygone regulated market. Deregulation hasn't yielded a transparent and competitive market because the industry structure was founded in a regulated environment."

"Especially in WA and SA where major monopolies exist in storage and handling – east coast is less a problem due domestic market and multiple export pathways."
"A big harvest like 2021/22 accentuates the lack of transparency. Small harvests are the opposite as traders and bulk handlers fight fiercely for tonnes to make their businesses function."

"Governments will always hide behind "the market will sort it out" or "that's for the ACCC" Which is in part, quite true. The guidelines or terms of reference so the aforementioned can work for the betterment of the OZ economy is where government(s) can benefit. "

"More independent analysis of the grain supply chain (needs to be) made public rather than the current system where a few traders can use their market power and knowledge to overpower the growers."

"The regional monopolies over supply chain assets of the bulk handlers is also allowing them to capture 100% knowledge of data of growers' ownership in the system - this sets up a system for "insider trading" by BHCs with growers' grain inventories."



GPA has supported calls to increase local manufacturing to reduce input costs in products such as green fertilisers, to reduce emissions. And also to boost domestic value adding opportunities, such as strengthening the plant-based protein product sector's capacity to source its products from Australian grain producers.

PRIORITY 4. INCREASE GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN LOCAL MANUFACTURING INITIATIVES

The 2021-22 season saw growers benefit from high grain prices which has helped off-set subsequent risks caused by record high input costs, especially fertiliser, chemical and fuel. However, Australian grain producers remain extremely concerned about increased exposure to these supply chain pressures caused by international factors and markets. These high input costs are front and centre of decision-making, for the next crop, amid fears grain prices will need to remain high, in order to manage these costs. And then rain is still needed to produce the actual grain to harvest and generate actual income. COVID-19 is also continuing to disrupt global supply chains, eg sea container pricing and access, whilst conflict in the Black Sea region is also exacerbating this scenario and causing uncertainty and added costs.

All of these factors reinforce [GPA's calls](#) for greater political focus and investment from the Federal Government to support local manufacturing of key farm inputs. This long-term strategy focus will help to secure greater local supply to help Australian growers mitigate and manage price risks. GPA also has a policy urging the government to take positive policy action to increase Australia's fuel supply and security, and reduce the vulnerability of Australian farmers caused by our dependence on international supply chains for fuel supply. GPA has also been calling for the support of local manufacturing of green fertilisers which will help reduce emissions. It should be noted a [recent report](#) by the CSIRO and the GRDC showed Australian grain farmers are already

producing grains at lower emissions than exporting countries we compete against in global markets. This local investment/local manufacturing policy also provides the opportunity to bolster green fertiliser production to further demonstrate the sustainability credentials of Australian grain producers, with genuine action to reduce emissions. The Federal Government should also consider investing in and supporting projects that deliver ways of adding value for growers, with premium pricing delivered, from selling low emissions grains eg supply chain traceability and certification schemes.

A [report in 2018](#) by Deloitte, 'Economic activity attributable to crop protection products' (CPP) said in dollar terms, the contribution of CPP to Australian broadacre production is estimated at \$9.6 billion representing an increase over the \$7.7 billion figure estimated for 2011–12, and is driven by several factors – primarily an increase in the value of production. This means in the absence of a clear local manufacturing support, these increases will continue to be sent off-shore, along with the opportunities for Australian producers and communities.

GPA calls for the Federal Government to conduct a high-level, strategic cost-benefit analysis of the opportunity to manufacture more local supply of essential farm inputs, with targeted investment in local manufacturing facilities, versus continuing to import these products from other countries. In particular, to minimise over-reliance and risks of supply from external sources such as China and India for raw ingredients needed to manufacture farm chemicals, fertilisers etc.

GPA calls for more support for projects, initiatives and ways of incentivising investments to increase local manufacturing opportunities with value-adding potential. In particular, growing more crops such as soybeans to produce the protein concentrate needed, to help strengthen the plant-based protein product sector's capacity to source its products from Australian grown [produce](#).

The recent [announcement](#) of the Government's backing for a project led by Australian Plant Proteins under the Collaboration Stream of the \$1.3 billion Modern Manufacturing Initiative, to transform local production of pulse protein ingredients and help meet the growing global demand, clearly demonstrates the value of supporting these types of initiatives.

GPA calls for specific support and recognition in the Australian Government's Modern Manufacturing Strategy and related programs and investments, to deliver long-term security for Australian-made manufacturing of crop protection products, to reduce our industry's reliance on imports and exposure to subsequent trade shocks and imbalances – especially essential raw ingredients needed for these products. This support for local manufacturing should also deliver innovation with a focus on agronomic benefits and enhanced sustainability for grain producers. GPA calls for greater government focus on ways of using current or future support mechanisms to deliver increased local manufacturing and investments which can encourage the development of grain production in Northern Australia – especially value adding opportunities with suitable, profitable export markets



GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey asked if the Federal Government should invest more to support local manufacturing of industries which help to increase local supply and of key farm inputs, with the vast majority saying 'Yes'. Here are some of the most compelling responses.

"Yes. Removing gas export permits and thus directing cheaper gas into Australian industries, including fertiliser production."

"Most definitely, to reduce our risk and possibly import costs on imported products which will both help to local economy with jobs and industry as well as give our country more certainty on food and fibre production."

"One opportunity lies in supporting decentralised renewable energy generation that can divert oversupply to hydrogen generation that can then underpin fertiliser production as well as support manufacturing generally. Green hydrogen can be used to as a fuel as well as an input."

"The agricultural industry at the present time relies too much on imports from other countries, which is reducing farmers profits and making them vulnerable."

"Absolutely. Keeping things local reduces costs at so many levels, increases support for local communities and economies and then overall the environmental impact is also reduced."

"Australia should be attempting to be as self-sufficient as possible in the production of food. Chemical and fertilisers rely too heavily on imports and countries such as China have demonstrated that we can no longer rely on supplies of their chemicals or fertilisers."

"Most important, we should not remain at risk of supply and price gouging from overseas companies."

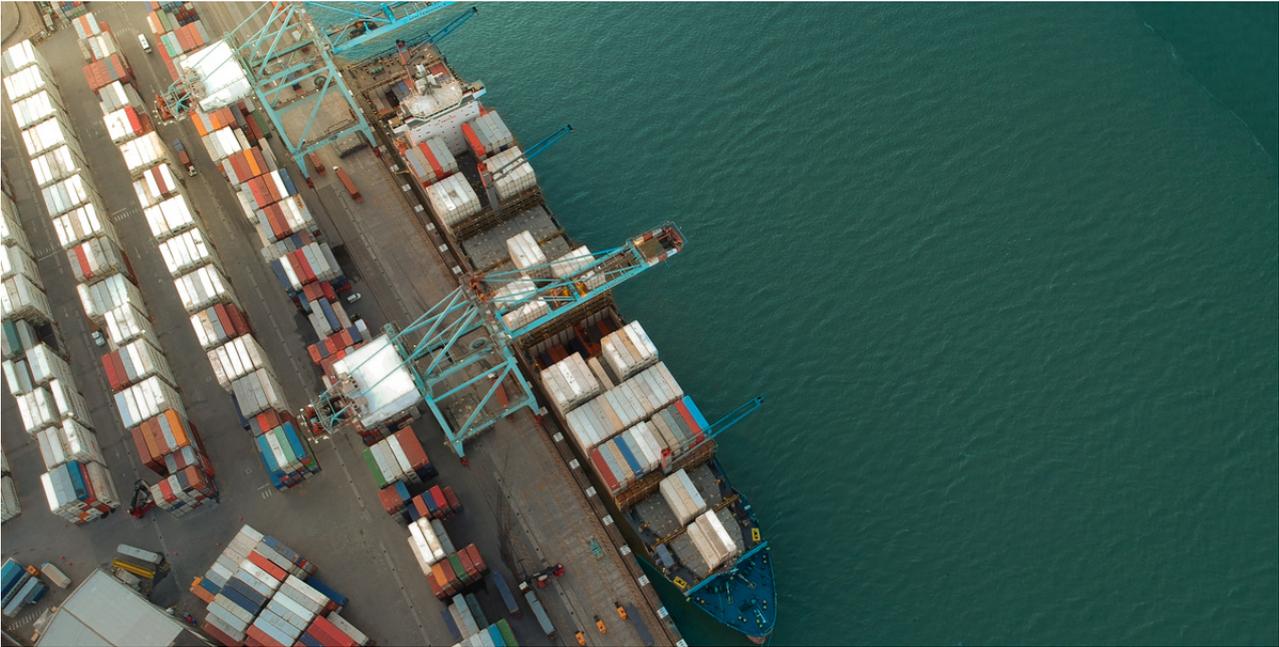
"Critical control points in food production must be protected from geopolitical risks."

"Not so much invest but put in the regulatory and taxation frameworks for local manufacturing."

"Absolutely. Reliance on overseas markets to provide key agricultural inputs has left Australia wide open for supply chain issues and escalating prices. Home grown/manufactured protect and foster business growth."

"Our dependence on China in particular has proven problematic with the current attitude of the Chinese government being negative towards Australia. A significant level of home manufacturing would give us a better more stable and reliable base moving forward."

"Yes, so we are not at the mercy of political trade decisions by other countries."



PRIORITY 5.

GROW EXPORT TRADE AND MARKET ACCESS FOR AUSTRALIAN GRAINS

Grain producers rated export trade and market access as their number one priority, in GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey. Front of mind in recent years has been the shock loss of premium prices for Australian barley exports to China, after 80% import tariffs were imposed in [May 2020](#) – and the impact of fluctuating import tariffs and government duties for pulse exports to India. GPA has been a key proponent of Grains Australia's implementation, to support a more coordinated and strategic approach to market development, with consolidated industry good functions, to benefit Australian grain producers and industry. GPA recognises this remains a work in progress, and urges the Federal Government to continue recognising this strategic investment opportunity and vehicle to deliver long-term sustainable solutions, with broader economic benefits, and returns to growers. This includes supporting Grains Australia's efficient and rapid evolution with the delivery of new investment and funding for projects which serve its core purpose.

GPA supports Grains Australia developing and managing an Australian-based certification scheme to protect sovereign interests and capture optimal value from local farm production methods. In particular, our sustainability practices that are recognised as world-leading, in producing high-quality, low emissions [grains](#). GPA believes Grains Australia is the logical home for such a scheme to be managed and controlled, with appropriate grower and industry oversight. It must be guided by sound science, be backed by independent regulation – not populist opinion – and reflect the unique climate and requirements of Australian farming systems. This is especially important to protect the use of effective inputs such as glyphosate, that are deemed safe by Australian and most global scientific regulators, but set to have registration withdrawn in countries

such as the EU for political motivations, despite scientific evidence and advice from their own regulators. Such a scheme also needs to ensure producers aren't burdened by over-regulation – especially duplicated auditing processes. It must also account for other practices growers use, to produce other commodities on their farming properties. It also needs to account for the minimal government subsidies Australian farmers receive compared to other agricultural nations, especially those we compete against in global grain markets such as the EU, which are forecast to reach \$1.8 trillion (USD) by 2030.

The Sustainable Grain Australia scheme, which facilitates the compliance of Australian growers with the International Sustainability and Carbon Certification ([ISCC](#)) standard for trading grain with the EU, can be used a template to evolve an Australian-made certification scheme which delivers the necessary efficiencies needed to meet export access requirements, for all grains and markets.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to fund a scoping study project by Grains Australia which analyses the benefits and viability of such a scheme, including comparing other similar schemes used by our global competitors, in order to guarantee market access, or deliver pricing premiums focussed on consumer demands and trends. This scheme needs to encapsulate the provenance story of Australian grains and optimise potential commercial returns to growers. This work can also be informed by the Australian Grains Industry's Sustainability Framework, Behind Australian Grain, and any agreed outcomes of this project, as it [evolves](#). This work should also be supported by the government's [\\$200 million](#) allocated for the National Soil Strategy and [\\$68.4 million](#) to 'shore up Australia's agricultural traceability systems and increase access to premium overseas markets'.

GPA also supports Grains Australia acting as the vehicle to formally coordinate the grain industry's cohesive views on priorities and initiatives to help deliver; improved grain export market access; achieve breakthroughs such as through Free Trade Agreements; work to eliminate non-tariff barriers; and industry representation and communication on related negotiations and relevant matters. This includes consideration of a targeted, positive and proactive approach to help maintain market access and build ongoing trade relations with China. This includes maintaining an inclusive approach to allocation of funding and projects to benefit growers, through the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation [Program](#). GPA grower members must also be part of any formal trade delegations and associated processes, to support these outcomes. Increased engagement with Australia's Agriculture Counsellors and Australia's first Special Representative for Australian Agriculture, Ms Su McCluskey, is also critical to deliver better strategic outcomes for grains, as the nation's second biggest farm commodity export, with GPA's support in representation.

GPA calls for the Federal Government to invest in education programs, through Grains Australia, to improve the capacity of grain producers to market their own grain. This investment can be extended to education for grain marketing consultants, to lift their capacity to provide timely and accurate advice to growers, and make informed decisions. This investment will also help optimise returns to Australian growers by extracting greater value from the international market (during certain market conditions). This increased profitability will not only be used to pay-down debt,

and shared spending among regional businesses dependent on the grains sector, it will also be used to help build greater profitability and therefore drought resilience among grain producers and regional communities.

GPA calls for Federal Government support and investment to help establish a globally recognised, national event for the Australian grains industry, similar to Rockhampton's Beef Australia. This event would be focused on attracting growers throughout Australia, local and international industry representatives, as well as tourists, to showcase Australian grains production, innovation, technology and knowledge. Government funding has been promised, based on the 2022 Federal Election, to support the Beef Australia event going forward. A record-breaking crowd of 115,866 people attended the week-long event in May 2021. It also reportedly also generated more than \$92 million for the greater Rockhampton region. A dedicated grains event has the capacity to provide similar outcomes and showcase Australia's high-quality growers and industry, while providing flow-on benefits in key areas such as RD&E investment, trade and market growth, technology etc. This work could start with funding provided to GPA for a scoping study looking at the number of current events which could be consolidated into one major, national forum to optimise shared benefits as well as the basic infrastructure and resources needed, to operate this showcase event.

GPA calls for greater government focus, investment and projects that encourage the development of grain production in Northern Australia, including a dedicated project through Grains Australia to investigate the most suitable market opportunities, to incentivise growth and identify strategic opportunities and investment pathways.





PRIORITY 6. HIGH LEVEL STRATEGIC ANALYSIS/INVESTMENT TO REDUCE GRAIN FREIGHT COSTS

[A 2019 study](#) by AgriFutures, 'The Impact of Freight Costs on Australian Farms', highlights why greater action is still needed by government, to reduce this significant cost on the Australian grains industry, to ensure we remain internationally competitive. It shows freight costs (moving commodities to and from agricultural properties and off-site storages are highest for Australian grains representing 27.5% of Gross Value of Farm Production. And by comparison the cost is 1% of GVAP for Australian poultry farmers. The study showed that for 2015-16, for grains (winter cereals) this 27.5% represented \$2.64 billion of the \$8.5 billion in gross value of farm production.

In GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey, which asked growers what they wanted prioritised by the Federal Government, to support the productivity and profitability of their grain farming business, 44.4% named transportation infrastructure/freight costs as one of their top five policy issues.

High-level future-proofing investment from government in this area remains an urgent policy priority for all of GPA's State Members. WAFarmers for example called for government co-investment in their 2021 Election Policy Platform. This included; \$200 million to establish a State fund to support grain on rail options and partner with the federal government for an additional \$800m in funding; \$10 million in road maintenance mapping; \$400 million for State Grain Highways and Secondary Grain Freight Routes to all be sealed with one-meter-wide shoulders; and \$400 million for local government grain roads fund of \$100 million/pa to upgrade Restricted Access Roads. This also included wrap-around support such as road safety training and red tape reduction for vehicle licensing and road use rules for agricultural machinery.

Table A Summary of Australian agricultural freight costs

Industry	Gross value of farm production (2015-16)	Total freight cost	Farm freight costs	Farm freight costs as a share of GVAP****
Beef	\$13.1 billion	\$766 million	\$512 million	6.4%
Grains*** (winter cereals)	\$8.5 billion	\$2.64 billion	\$2.43 billion	27.5%
Cotton	\$1.5 billion	\$90.1 million	\$37.2 million	2.4%
Dairy	\$4.3 billion	\$889 million	\$198 million	4.3%
Pigs	\$1.4 billion	\$54.8 million	\$28.7 million	2.5%
Sugar	\$1.3 billion	\$62.2 million	\$26.8 million	2.1%
Rice	\$115 million	\$134.2 million	\$25.8 million	11.6%
Fruit and vegetables***	\$3.6 billion	\$617.8 million	\$617.8 million*	21%
Sheep and goat meat	\$3.4 billion	\$268 million	\$185.8 million	5.8%
Chicken meat	\$2.7 billion	\$63.1million	\$28.2 million	1.0%

Source: Deloitte Access Economics analysis of CSIRO (2017); ABS Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced (2015-16)

*Farm freight costs could not be disaggregated from total freight.

** This table only includes selected (in-scope) varieties from CSIRO (2017). The selected varieties are described later in this report.

*** Note that this share was calculated using the GVAP for the year in which data was collected by CSIRO for the study, which varies between commodities.

Five case studies are included in the report to provide examples of the cost of moving specific commodities and products to market. These five case studies were selected to capture a diverse range of geographies within Australia, commodity types and transport modes. These case studies are summarised in the table below.

GPA calls for a comprehensive strategic analysis of the national grains supply chain and associated infrastructure costs such as road quality, rail connectivity and port access, to inform national decision-making on future investments. The flow of grain from country storage to port must work to minimise cost and avoid inefficient use of resource and double handling. This high-level analysis should identify investment opportunities – public and private – to ensure the Australian grains supply chain is fit for purpose, and designed to meet projected growth targets for not only grain growing regions, but supply to key customers such as grain exporters, millers and livestock feeding agents. This project will also be driven by a key imperative to ensure Australian producers can access a supply chain that; is the least-cost pathway to market; optimises international competitiveness; and offers flow-on efficiencies for logistics to help reduce input costs. It should make strategic recommendations on national grain investment priorities between various levels of government and private sector partners.

GPA calls for government funding for a strategic study project to analyse the grain harvest/storage needs for growers and industry, and the logistical system’s overall capacity to manage increased production to ensure Australian grain producers and exports remain international competitive.

The government should consider new funding or from existing programs such as the \$107.2 million in the Supply Chain Resilience Initiative, to address vulnerabilities in critical supply chains as part of the Modern Manufacturing Strategy.



PRIORITY 7. INCREASED FOCUS ON PREVENTATIVE BIOSECURITY MEASURES TO PROTECT AUSTRALIAN GRAINS

GPA represents Australian grain producers on [biosecurity](#) through our legislative responsibilities to Plant Health Australia. This work includes the successful Grains Farm Biosecurity Program, working with State Governments to help provide practical education and awareness programs for growers.

GPA's Biosecurity Committee also supports engagement with our State Members, government and stakeholders across the grains supply chain, to support outcomes for growers throughout Australia on related policy matters. As a key PHA Member, GPA is also a signatory to the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed, representing Australian grain producers, with roles in emergency response efforts, through the National Management Group and committees.

GPA's State Members have also called for [increased funding](#), at various levels, to better-protect their agricultural industries, recognising the significant risks of local incursions and outbreaks and the urgent need to manage share responsibility efficiently and vigorously.

With the threat of incursions such as Khapra beetle rising, due to increased global trade movements, especially in sea containers – our local growers and industry face subsequent increased exposure to social and economic devastation. According to [Delivering Ag2030](#), if established in Australia, khapra beetle could cost our grain industry \$15.5 billion over 20 years and remove access to key markets.

GPA has supported measures above and beyond the government's \$14.5 million khapra beetle Enhanced Screening measure, announced in December 2020, that have already been introduced, including; a ban on high-risk plant products via non-commercial pathways; offshore treatment of sea containers packed in khapra beetle risk countries; offshore treatment and revised phytosanitary certification for high-risk plant products via commercial pathways.

GPA calls for the Federal Government to further strengthen efforts to ensure Australia remains protected from threats like khapra beetle – and that the lessons learned from the global COVID-19 pandemic are applied, to guide policy and investments, into genuine preventative measures, at our borders, harnessing new technologies and innovation. There is significant opportunity to use new advanced in-field surveillance and detection technologies that provides a cost effective and potentially semi-automated option for managing incursion risks of khapra beetle and potentially other pests including Karnal bunt.

GPA supports adopting a new national biosecurity policy approach, focussed on improving genuine protections for growers; especially making risk-creators (importers) more accountable financially, and in their business practices, including appropriate penalties, for shared responsibility on prevention activities. As the global COVID-19 pandemic has shown, governments need to significantly increase proactive investments in preventative measures, to control our borders and ensure pests and diseases do not enter to Australia to start with, compared to spending on eradication programs.

GPA understands the Federal Government has committed a record \$500 million towards strengthening our biosecurity system since the 2021-22 Budget. However, **GPA calls on** the government to ensure higher priority investment, to deliver a more efficient system, with increased focus on preventative strategies and measures including use of new advanced surveillance and detection technologies to protect the grains sector – especially from 'hitchhiker pest' risks.

GPA calls for a government review to ensure national biosecurity response measures are fit for purpose, including cost sharing and stakeholder consultation arrangements with States.



PRIORITY 8. IMPROVED ACCESS AND APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDES AND TECHNOLOGY

GPA continues to support the science and fact-based pesticide regulatory system operated by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. This includes ongoing responses to the current independent review of Australia's pesticides and veterinary medicines regulatory system.

This work is coordinated through the GPA Pesticides and Technology [Sub-Committee](#) with expert analysis from Dr Rohan Rainbow who works on contract to GPA. This process also provides strategic strength to GPA, working with our State Members to develop policy, submissions and ongoing management on critical matters such as; farm chemical use; investment policy; stewardship such as spray drift [management](#); Trade Advice Notices; Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) and impacts on international trade, through the NRS; crop biotechnology; and agricultural innovation/technology.

As part of this work, GPA calls on the Australian Government to continue working with State and Territory governments to implement the Council of Australian Government's (COAG) 2010 direction to harmonise agricultural and veterinary chemical regulation. Harmonised models for requirements for training and licensing of fee-for-service operators and users of restricted chemical products and schedule seven poisons, and record keeping for agricultural chemicals were finalised in 2017-2018. Full national implementation was due by 2022 – but has not been delivered. This has also been raised by GPA for attention in the Review of the AgVet Chemicals Regulatory System.

GPA calls for greater focus and support to deliver the proposed AgVet reforms, as detailed in our previous submissions to this review – in particular to provide three main outcomes:

- Increased investment and technology access
- Increased transparency of science-based decisions that are internationally recognised
- Increased Australian public and international trade confidence in the regulator

GPA also calls for support for our submissions made on behalf of grain producers into other related inquiries to deliver beneficial reforms, including:

- New incentives for investment
- Improved industry prioritisation for linkage to incentives
- Building co-investment partnerships, R&D and technical capacity in Australia
- Increased clarity on benefits and return on investment
- Increased co-regulation or co-equivalence regulation through expanded global joint review programs
- Clarity of roles for commercial companies, R&D providers and regulators
- Regulation reforms that address current bottlenecks for timely approval.

GPA calls for a ‘practical and easily implemented’ program, as described as a supplementary label program in submissions to the recent AgVet first principles review’. This would maintain consumer and market support to enable companies to utilise international data held under data protection, under what is essentially a permit program for registrants.

GPA calls for an expansion of the current Australian Government AgVet Grants program, to build an Australian equivalent of the US based IR-4 program with full collaboration with USA, Canada and NZ programs. GPA has detailed the opportunities from this type of initiative in submissions to various inquiries, over the past seven years. Reports indicate a direct cost saving benefits to industry of \$11.17 million with a potential benefit/cost from international collaboration of more that \$1 billion. The current government grant program appears to have had some impacts on accelerating investment market failure by displacing commercial co-investment and so a major change is required.

GPA also calls for increased government support for projects and initiatives that increase access to new plant breeding technologies, with a science focussed regulatory system, to optimise benefits and sustainability for grain producers and rural communities. This is especially critical to deliver new tools to manage increased climate volatility risks, while needing to feed a world population that’s forecast to reach 10 billion by 2050, when demand for food is expected to be 70% higher than 2014. This should also focus on outcomes that increase supply of safe and nutritious food, targeted at consumers in Australia and for our export customers.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to invest in projects, to help growers better manage future mouse plagues and protect their crops. This includes ways of helping to secure long-term supply of raw ingredients needed to produce mouse bait, and secure timely local supply. This should also include developing a policy and mechanism which can be triggered, to coordinate an efficient national response involving relevant stakeholders, including targeted communications.

GPA calls for a renewed focus on delivery of \$400,000 allocated to co-fund expansion of the Australian Farm Data Code and assist users to gain confidence in using this important source of information to improve the productivity, profitability, and sustainability of their enterprises.

GPA calls on the Federal Government to allocate funding from the \$21.7 million in additional funding provided for Innovation Hubs, to expand their role beyond drought resilience adoption, and support broader innovation outcomes, to enhance GPA's work to help deliver autonomous farm machinery.



GPA's permit program supports growers to better-manage pests, weeds and crop diseases to improve farm productivity and agronomic performance. It plays an important role in supporting industry sustainability practices and broader work to maintain the environment and market access.



PRIORITY 9.

REMOVE RESTRICTIVE GRAINS INDUSTRY RED TAPE AND COSTS

The Australian Government's [response in 2019](#), to the Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the Regulation of Australian Agriculture, said many of the report's findings reaffirmed the direction of reforms already underway at Commonwealth and State level. But it also said, 'the findings confirm that work still remains to be done. The government acknowledges this and commits to renewing efforts to push for better outcomes for farmers, business and communities'. The Commission inquiry made 29 recommendations and was an initiative of the Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper of 2015, where stakeholder consultations raised concerns about 'excessive regulation applied across all levels of government'. Red tape was the second biggest issue raised by growers in responding to GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey. However, GPA also believes there is a need for balance, with necessary regulation that can be improved, to deliver efficiencies, with clearly defined requirements which limit confusion and provide clarity.

GPA calls for the Federal Government to take a renewed and dedicated look at red tape issues that hinder the grain sector's productivity, and demonstrate leadership to ensure any restrictive barriers to core farm production needs and business tools (especially farm chemicals), vehicle and machinery movements, market competition and export access, taxation, biosecurity etc are identified and removed. This may be initiated through 'revisiting' relevant aspects of the Commission's report and considering steps to re-engage stakeholders and industry representatives to identify new or lingering problems, and find genuine solutions such as reduced paperwork/time savings.



GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey asked growers if they could ask the Federal Government to remove one area of red tape which limits their business performance and productivity what would it be any why? Here are some of the most compelling responses.

"Just ease the regulator burden on access to chemicals and biotech."

"There is too many to just choose one, I feel that it all needs to be simplified a lot more. The time and energy spent just getting paperwork correct and filled out is enormous. We are not the mining sector and we should not be "painted with the same brush".

"Too many layers and levels within federal/state/local government that everything has to pass through - remove the layers and bureaucratic processes to streamline things (whatever the issue). Once all these time constraints and expenses are removed business can get on with what they need to do which immediately improves performance and productivity at every level and for every party involved, no matter what the activity."

"I would like to have a one stop shop for regulation compliance. A checklist of requirements for farm businesses which would issue alerts for changes and updates."



PRIORITY 10.

IMPROVED INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT OF GRAIN LEVIES

GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey highlighted RD&E investment/funding (28.9%) as a core priority, with respondents suggesting more dedicated funding and projects are needed to support GPA's independent oversight of the GRDC's RD&E investments for levy-payers; including high-level independent economic analysis to measure actual returns delivered to levy-paying growers. As a national representative organisation under legislation, GPA plays a critical over-arching role for grain producers in the levy system, which provides about \$800 million each year in total, to fund RD&E, biosecurity, residue testing and marketing.

GPA calls for dedicated funding for projects to support GPA's independent oversight of RD&E investments for levy-paying growers – especially independent economic analysis to measure and determine actual returns delivered to levy-paying growers and the best structures needed to optimise grower productivity and sustainability, through this system. This can be delivered through changes to the Statutory Funding Agreement to provide independent scrutiny of the system for growers, by growers.

GPA calls for continued engagement and support to ensure optimal outcomes are delivered for grains levy-payers from the government's \$7.2 million [program](#) to streamline/modernise agricultural levies legislation, that's scheduled to be in place, by April 2023.



PRIORITY 11. STRATEGIC TAXATION REFORMS TO OPTIMISE FARM RESILIENCE AND PRODUCTION

A number of respondents to GPA's Election Survey listed taxation reforms as a key area of opportunity to enhance profitability, to re-invest into sustainability programs and drive long term resilience against seasonal fluctuations. GPA acknowledges efforts by the Federal Government to deliver these outcomes for grain producers with successful initiatives such as improvements to the Farm Management Deposit Scheme and immediate deductions for farm assets ie fodder storages and income [averaging](#). However, more can be done to examine and implement these opportunities – especially in view of the industry's returns to national taxation revenue, from a \$26 billion harvest.

GPA calls for support to develop a farm income protection insurance market in Australia, as a means of self-managing the risks and perils of farming. It has been recognised in numerous reports that Australia's farm income insurance market is underdeveloped. Consequently, there is significant uncertainty for underwriters to support the development of a robust product. GPA believes that initial market certainty could be developed through a government-backed stop-loss measure. However, we also believe other opportunities to invest in and support projects such as Multi-Peril Crop Insurance remain incomplete.

GPA calls for funding to support a project that will conduct a high-level analysis of the existing tax landscape for grain producers and recommend ways government can either removing barriers, or provide incentives, which deliver mutual benefits for the community.

GPA supports calls for continuation of the diesel fuel rebate for grain farmers and funding for a project, by GPA, to clearly communicate the benefits of this, in terms of supporting long-term environmental sustainability and drought resilience.

GPA calls for funding to support a dedicated analysis of global farm subsidies from major grain producing nations, compared to Australia's, and the impact on fair trade – in particular those that may be distorting sustainability and global emissions reduction targets.

GPA calls for Farm Management Deposits to be rolled into superannuation when farmers exit being primary producers, as part of a package of reforms to assist farmers manage succession planning. Rather than tax implications this simply removes the third-party costs of multiple transfers as currently required. It also provides an incentive to drought proof farms whilst reducing complications for money transfer towards requirements.

GPA calls for greater government focus and priority on ways of incentivising business investment with taxation measures that can encourage the development of grain production in Northern Australia. This extends to ways of delivering RD&E projects focused on these outcomes to not only support new and increased production of grains, but also supply chains and communities.





PRIORITY 12.

SHARPEN GRAIN FARM AND COMMUNITY FOCUS OF SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAMS

As well as the above measures, GPA calls for continued government support to deliver better sustainability outcomes and future-proof grain producers and the agricultural sector through current initiatives and funding programs outlined in 'Delivering Ag2030' such as the \$5 billion Future Drought Fund, that's providing \$100 million each year to build drought preparedness and resilience, including investing in natural resource management activities. The Fund is also investing \$325.5 million over 4 years on programs to continue to provide farmers and regional communities with the tools they need to build drought resilience.

In particular, **GPA calls for** government to increase focus on the delivery of technologies such green fertilisers that provide multiple benefits for grain producers and the Australian community, via the \$1.2 billion over 10 years. The DeliveringAg 2030 document says this funding has been allocated to 'create a technology co-investment facility to support the development of priority technologies, including regional hydrogen hubs, carbon capture, use and storage technologies, very low-cost soil carbon measurement and new agricultural feed technologies'.

Given recent devastating impacts of severe floods throughout Australia, **GPA calls for** an urgent priority review of the Natural Disaster Framework to make it more accessible for grains and agriculture.



GPA's 2022 Federal Election Survey asked growers to list the five policy issues they wanted prioritised by the Federal Government, to support the productivity and profitability of their grain farming businesses.

- Trade and market access (60.0%)
- Agricultural red tape/industry regulation (48.9%)
- Input and production costs – ie chemical and fertilisers (46.7%)
- Transportation infrastructure/freight costs (44.4%)
- Market competition and transparency (42.2%)
- Digital connectivity (40.0%)
- Biosecurity (37.8%)
- Farm labour/workforce (33.3%)



Colin Bettles | Chief Executive

m: 0439 901 970

e: colin.bettles@grainproducers.com.au

w: www.grainproducers.com.au

