

GRAINGROWERS 2022-23 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION



INTRODUCTION

GrainGrowers is a voice for Australian grain farmers with grower members across the country. We work to build a more profitable and sustainable grains industry for the benefit of Australian grain farmers. Our key pillars are policy and advocacy, alongside grower and industry development, designed to build on the knowledge and capability of our growers. Our growers are at the heart of all that we do and the focus of our work.

We are a powerhouse of regional Australia with 22,300 farm businesses growing around 40 million tonnes¹ of grains, oilseeds and pulses each year for domestic and global customers. The industry accounts for over 6% of Australian employment and we look after an estimated 31 million hectares of land. Grain constitutes around 22% of Australian agriculture's gross value of production. In addition to ingredients for world class food, our grain, oilseeds and legumes are in high demand for livestock feeds, pharmaceuticals, biofuels, and more.

GrainGrowers welcomes this opportunity to provide a submission to the consultative process for the 2022-23 GrainGrowers also acknowledges the government's focus on the COVID-19 pandemic and Australia's economic recovery. While the impacts have been significant for many sectors, the Australian grains sector is in a prime position to drive continued economic growth in the COVID-19 recovery. The above average 2020 and 2021 harvests have illustrated both the importance of the Australian grains sector as well as the enormity of the logistical task when favourable seasonable conditions present. As outlined in this submission, to capitalise on these opportunities and to ensure the sector continues to thrive we need stable policy coupled with strategic and targeted investment.

Should you require any further information in relation to this submission, please contact GrainGrowers General Manager for Policy and Advocacy, Zachary Whale on (02) 9286 2000 or Zachary.Whale@graingrowers.com.au.

¹ Based on the 5 year average to 2019/20 (State of the Australian Grains Industry 2021)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Australian grains sector is well versed in the need for continuous adaptation and innovation, and the events of the past 12 months have reiterated the need for government and industry to work harmoniously to achieve the ambitious goal of \$100 billion of farm gate value by 2030.

GrainGrowers provides the following submission to highlight grains specific priorities critical to enhancing the sector, which is vital to the prosperity of regional and rural Australia and our COVID-19 recovery.

In addition to the specific recommendations set out in this submission GrainGrowers, as a member of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), supports the comprehensive NFF Pre-Budget submission which outlines a broad range of budget priorities to support the Australian agricultural industries.

Trade and Market Access and Quality

- Allocate \$20 million over 2 years for activities that accelerate market development through the Agribusiness Business Expansion Initiative (ABEI) and the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation Program (ATMAC).
- Increase focus on the elimination of commercially meaningful non-tariff barriers impeding Australian grains exports through technical market access capability building for government and industry.
- Deliver a mutually beneficial Australia-India Agreement that improves market access for Australian grains, oilseeds, and pulses.

Freight, Infrastructure and Telecommunications

- Expedite improvements to Australia's logistics system to ensure that Australia can import/export key agricultural inputs and commodities at competitive prices.
- Fund and deliver a targeted infrastructure investment program that removes bottlenecks along grain freight routes and at key ports.
- Increase funding to \$1 billion for local road upgrades and maintenance through the Roads to Recovery (\$800m) and the Black Spot Program (\$200m).
- Continued investment in improving vital telecommunications infrastructure and a commitment to maintain access to both broadband and voice services for all Australians through the updated Universal Service Guarantee (USG).
- Investment in place-based connectivity solutions through third-party providers to provide better telecommunications solutions to growers and their communities and to assist growers improve their own on-farm telecommunications infrastructure.
- Support farmers and their communities to access independent and trusted advice on how to maximise network coverage and access appropriate internet connectivity.

Farm Business and Economics

- The Australian Government undertake a review of the Farm Management Deposit with full engagement and consultation with industry. The review of the cap should be included in the scope of the ongoing evaluation process undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

Innovation, Farm Inputs and Biosecurity

- Ensure supply of critical inputs by increasing opportunities for domestic manufacturing of fertiliser, chemical, fuel, and other components such as spare parts.
- Investigate ways to improve price transparency in fertiliser markets to enable growers to better forward manage price risk.
- The Agricultural Visa (AgVisa) be accessible and fit-for-purpose for all of Australian agricultural commodities, including the needs of the grains sector. This would require the list of participating countries expanded to the Northern Hemisphere and also ensuring the Visa is legislated.
- The Australian Government to partner with industry driven initiatives like GrainGrowers *Grains Employer of Choice Program* that demonstrates effective employee recruitment, engagement and retention while also achieving business productivity.
- The development and implementation of a National Biosecurity Strategy is appropriately resourced and through this process there is a policy and funding reset to ensure Australia's biosecurity system can respond to changing biosecurity risks.
- GrainGrowers welcomed the recent right-to-repair review undertaken by the Productivity Commission. Government is encouraged to adopt the recommendations, especially for the repair suppliers' obligation for agricultural machinery be introduced immediately.

Sustainability, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

- Provide \$2 million to fund investment in education and awareness programs to assist farmers' understanding of carbon emissions, sequestration, offsets and markets.
- Provide \$2 million to Agriculture Innovation Australia to fast-track tools to measure and integrate carbon, biodiversity, soil and environment health data and reporting as part of farm management software.
- Introduce a new Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) loan to assist farmers undertake emissions reduction activities.
- Provide \$20 million investment over 4 years for investment in research and technologies to reduce grains related emissions produced on farm and/or embedded in farm inputs, and support pathways to carbon neutrality (net zero) or better which are economically and socially feasible for the grains sector.
- Provide \$10m under the Building Better Regions Fund to fast-track viability assessment of regional low emissions fertiliser manufacturing capability in regional Australia and ensure funding under the Modern Manufacturing Strategy is directly allocated to improving domestic manufacturing for critical agricultural inputs.

THE AUSTRALIAN GRAINS INDUSTRY

The grains sector is a powerhouse of regional Australia with 22,300 farm businesses growing on average 40 million tonnes of grains, oilseeds and pulses each year for domestic and global customers. The farm-gate value of Australian grain production is \$13 billion, contributing 20% of the value of Australian agriculture. We are a major contributor to the Australian economy, directly employing over 100,000 people.

The Australian agricultural sector is striving to reach \$100 billion by 2030, up from a current forecast value of \$73 billion, with the broader agribusiness supply chain striving to reach \$300 billion. A significant increase in the value of farm production in a decade is clearly a challenging task. However, the Australian grain industry has a history of transformational change, underpinned by research and development and innovative farm businesses.

Grains are produced in all Australian states and territories. Australia's total winter crop area is around 20.9 million hectares each year, with summer crop area around 0.5 million hectares. By land area, nearly 37% of winter crop is concentrated in Western Australia, followed by 27% in New South Wales.

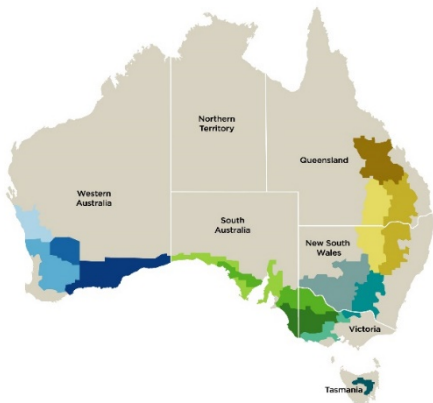


Figure 1 Australian grain production regions
Source: Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre

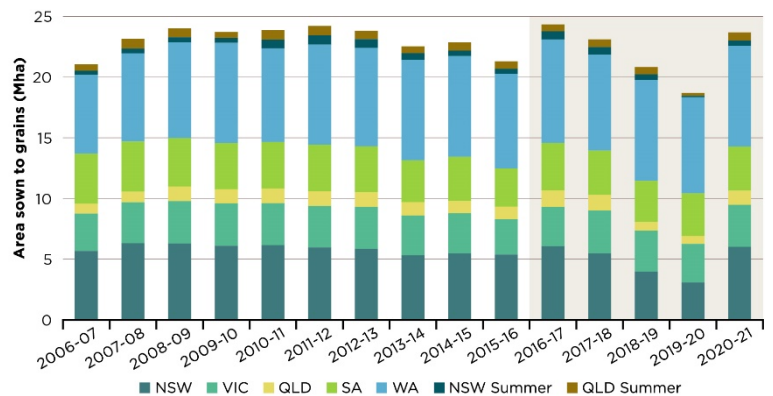


Figure 2 Crop area grown by state and season.
Source: ABARES

The Australian grains industry is export focused with approximately 70% of total production sold to overseas customers in normal (non-drought) years. Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) is essential to underpin the sustainable growth and profitability of the sector and each year Australian grain growers contribute on average \$115.7 million to the Grains Research Development Corporation (GRDC).

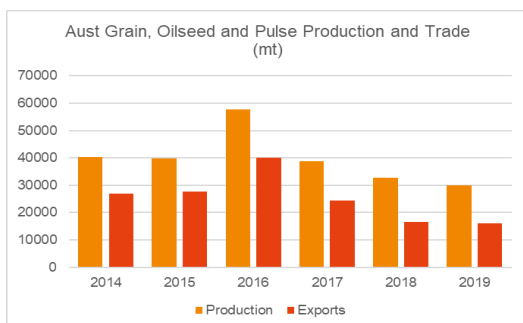


Figure 3: Australian grain production and trade
Source: ABARES

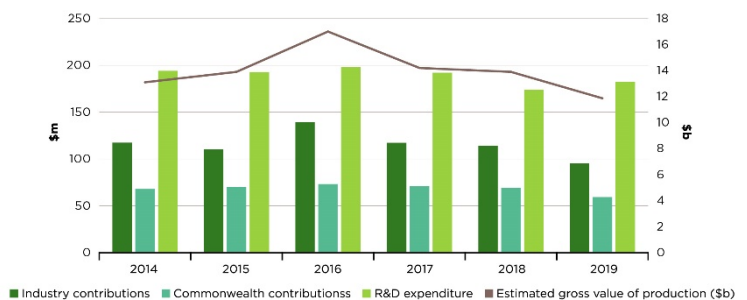


Figure 4: Grain Levy payers' contributions to the Grains Research Development Corporation
Source: GRDC

BUDGET REQUEST DETAILS

Trade and Market Access and quality

The grains industry is a significant contributor to the Australian economy and is particularly export focused, accounting for approximately 70% of total production. There are significant market opportunities that exist both internationally and within the domestic market. It is important that government continues to work effectively with industry and adequately resources an ambitious agenda to deliver enhanced trade and market access outcomes.

Often one market dominates each of our major grain commodities, for example, Indonesia imports 21% of our wheat, 71% of our canola goes to the EU, 72% of barley exports went to China (prior to China imposing tariffs in 2020) and 38% of pulse to India. These markets have been developed over time through major investments and strong relationships.

Recently, Australian barley producers were subject to the impact of market concentration and are set to face a \$2.5 billion loss over the next five years due to the Chinese Government decision to impose 80.5% duties. The events of 2020 have reinforced the need for the Australian Government to commit to the development and implementation of positive international trade and market access agenda for the Australian grains industry and its customers.

There is continued need to ensure programs that exist that demonstrate government's commitment and investment need to continue such as Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation Program (ATMAC). Industry has demonstrated its investment through the co-investment in these programs and initiatives.

Liberalising markets and removing trade distortions in the global trade system is of crucial importance to Australian grain farmers and the economy. Non-tariff measures (NTMs) are a significant barrier to the grains industry for they are actively preventing the opportunities from being fully realised with many strategic markets, for example India.

India continues to be an attractive market for Australian grain growers. GrainGrowers has outlined² to the Australian Government what a mutually beneficial agreement would look like between both countries that would drive economic and social benefit.

- Allocate \$20 million over 2 years for activities that accelerate market development through the Agribusiness Business Expansion Initiative (ABEI) and the Agricultural Trade and Market Access Cooperation Program (ATMAC).
- Increase focus on the elimination of commercially meaningful non-tariff barriers impeding Australian grains exports through technical market access capability building for government and industry.
- Deliver a mutually beneficial Australia-India Agreement that improves market access for Australian grains, oilseeds, and pulses.

² GrainGrowers' Submission in response to the Australia-India Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (AI-CECA) via <https://cdn.sanity.io/files/1nr0ob5f/production/31aa6b3536a0c15eab203b763afeba4f27f7793d.pdf>

Freight, Infrastructure and Telecommunications

Freight, infrastructure and supply chains

Australian supply chain costs are comparably higher than our competitors. As a result, growers are penalised through lower grain prices and reduced profitability. Grain supply chain costs are significant, making up roughly 30% of the value of Australian export grains at port, which is markedly higher than our competitors. This reduces the international competitiveness of Australian grain and directly reduces the prices paid to Australian farmers. Properly planned, well maintained and cost-efficient storage and transport infrastructure is essential to deliver grain to customers without undue costs and within their product specifications

High-cost supply chains also hurt Australian grain processors and consumers such as feedlots, flour mills and maltsters – and ultimately the Australian population who enjoy grain-based foods and beverages every day. Freight savings represent dollars directly back into the pocket of growers and reduce costs for consumers.

Australia's high grain freight costs reflect the condition of, and ability to access, rail and road infrastructure, the level of competition, and inconsistent government regulation. As a major exporter, globally competitive supply chains are crucial for Australia to retain and expand its grain export markets.

Targeted infrastructure investment and improved government regulation is needed to ensure Australia has an efficient and globally competitive grain supply chain. Improved freight efficiency not only supports the productivity of the entire industry, but also removes road congestion and improves the safety for all road users.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted issues with supply chains, resulting in shortages in agricultural inputs such as Fertiliser, chemicals, and machinery parts. At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, demand for shipping services declined with global production and international trade being subdued. However, by October 2020, this trend had reversed and the requirements for containerised goods increased along with shipping demand. This has led to skyrocketing container rates, especially out of China, which has made sourcing food grade containers almost impossible. With these headwinds, it is even more important to ensure the regulatory settings are fit for purpose.

The Productivity Commission's Inquiry into the maritime logistics system is a step in the right direction and GrainGrowers looks forward to working constructively with government on how the system can be improved to benefit Australian grain growers and the broader Australia's economy which also relies on these supply chains.

Further, recent flooding events over significant areas of Queensland and New South Wales and South Australia highlight the vulnerability of our local road network. This network, often referred to as the *first mile* is critical for getting grains onto the road network and ultimately to market. The deterioration of these roads, which is exacerbated by adverse weather events, causes significant time and cost delays, often requiring that smaller, less efficient combinations are used. There are also significant safety implications and increased repair costs for vehicles that endure these roads.

- Expedite improvements to Australia's logistics system to ensure that Australia can import/export key agricultural inputs and commodities at competitive prices.
- Fund and delivery a targeted infrastructure investment program that removes bottlenecks along grain freight routes and at key ports.
- Increase funding to \$1 billion for local road upgrades and maintenance through the Roads to Recovery (\$800m) and the Black Spot Program (\$200m).

Telecommunications

Access to high quality and reliable telecommunications is a basic right that should be afforded to all Australians irrespective of where they reside and work. Connectivity is critical for peoples' everyday lives in rural Australia,

influencing how we live, interact and do business. It is vital for safety, community amenity, labour attraction and retention and the ability to capitalise on the opportunities that arise from digital agriculture.

Connectivity is essential for all farm businesses to operate efficiently and to adopt new technology to help drive productivity gains. Yet blackspots, slow speeds, and poor service hamper regional Australia every day. Inadequate mobile and broadband telecommunications services and infrastructure in regional Australia continue to hinder rural Australians and farm businesses.

Place-based solutions through third party investment stand to help improve connectivity in the hard-to-reach locations that are unlikely to be commercially viable. We must continue to fund programs such as the Regional Connectivity Program that promote service providers operating in regional rural and remote Australia and encourage collaboration with local communities to develop bespoke solutions.

Connectivity is essential to enable innovation and digitisation of agriculture while providing a safe working environment. A recent report by the Australian Broadband Advisory Council Agri-Tech Working Group characterises rural connectivity as *salt and pepper connectivity* and asserts that it is holding back the administrative functions, the fully use of digital functionality on existing equipment and the use of digital technologies that need reliable and ubiquitous connectivity³.

Economic modelling has shown that digital agriculture could increase the gross value of Australian agricultural production by \$20.3 billion, with the benefit to the grains sector of \$5.9 billion. The current poor state of connectivity is preventing this opportunity from being realised. While investments have been made in funding the Regional Tech Hubs, striving to get people connected and helping them stay connected, further investment is needed in translating better connectivity in the bush, into productivity gains.

- Continued investment in improving vital telecommunications infrastructure and a commitment to maintain access to both broadband and voice services for all Australians through the updated Universal Service Guarantee (USG).
- Investment in place-based connectivity solutions through third-party providers to provide better telecommunications solutions to growers and their communities and to assist growers improve their own on-farm telecommunications infrastructure.
- Support farmers and their communities to access independent and trusted advice on how to maximise network coverage and access appropriate internet connectivity.

Farm Business and Economics

To continue to be effective and globally competitive grain producers, farm business risk management measures need to be appropriate and accompanying business regulation must not impede the self-reliance of farming businesses. GrainGrowers believes it is critical to ensure that taxation measures are fit-for-purpose and effective as they have a significant impact on the competitiveness of our farming sector. It is imperative that the policy settings are right to ensure the grains industry remains internationally competitive.

GrainGrowers believes that the Farm Management Deposit (FMD) Scheme is tool a that growers should have access to for managing the risks associated with climate variability and market fluctuations. However, some adjustments are required to ensure they reflect the realities of modern farming practices and business structure. GrainGrowers' recognises that the Scheme is a tool to improve resilience of farming businesses, but successful implementation of the Scheme in a farm business requires good planning and access to expert advice.

Since the inception of the scheme in 1999 the operating environment has changed and GrainGrowers believes that the FMD scheme hasn't kept pace. GrainGrowers has previously voiced the needs of growers via a submission made in 2021 on the effectiveness of Farm Management Deposit Scheme⁴. GrainGrowers has called for a review

³ <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/agri-tech-expert-working-group.pdf>

⁴GrainGrowers' Evaluation of Farm Management Deposit Scheme Submission 2021 <https://graingrowers.com.au/policy/farm-business-and-economics/graingrowers-submission-in-response-to-the-evaluation-of-the-farm-management-deposits-fmd-scheme>

of the FMD scheme to consider the current and evolving operating environment of grain farm businesses. This review scope should consider:

- The emergence of new markets and income sources, such as carbon farming and biodiversity payments
 - Treatment of FMDs when considering new economies and the definition of non-primary production income
 - Non-primary production income threshold
 - The FMD cap in the context of the scale of grain businesses
 - Accessibility of the scheme for farm businesses (including companies and trusts)
 - Treatment of FMDs upon the unexpected cessation of an account holder due to death and alignment with existing taxation provisions
 - Key performance measures of the scheme.
- The Australian Government undertake a review of the Farm Management Deposit with full engagement and consultation with industry. The review of the cap should be included in the scope of the ongoing evaluation process undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment.

Innovation, Farm Inputs and Biosecurity

Input costs and availability

Agriculture was subject to direct and indirect production and trade disruptions as a result of COVID-19. Whilst the impact in Australia was less significant than for many international competitors, challenges relating to international transportation of goods and key inputs highlighted the risk and exposure caused by a reliance on international suppliers. The Australian grains industry is reliant upon sourcing many of the following from overseas:

- agricultural chemicals, such as fertilisers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides,
- machinery and machinery parts
- liquid fuel
- skilled labour such as contractor harvester operators.

All these inputs are critical to the productivity of the industry, impacting crop yield, crop protection and quality along with our capacity to meet export requirements (such as stored grain protection and phytosanitary requirements). Disruptions to supply of these inputs result in delays and increased costs, which cause significant burden for grain growers. Grain production has critical windows in the year with time sensitive activities such as planting and harvesting a crop. Delays to these activities results in impacts on yields and/or quality downgrades in the crop.

To ensure certainty of supply, more opportunities for domestic manufacture of critical agricultural inputs are required. This would provide local employment opportunities, shorten our supply chain and ameliorate some of the risks posed by international supply chain disruptions.

Further, inputs like fertiliser do not have regularly published pricing information, which makes cost manage for farmers extremely difficult. Fertiliser is an expensive and critical input, and its fluctuating price has a significant impact on agricultural cost of production. Transparency of pricing will assist farmers in managing price risk.

- Ensure supply of critical inputs by increasing opportunities for domestic manufacturing of fertiliser, chemical, fuel, and other components such as spare parts.
- Investigate ways to improve price transparency in fertiliser markets to enable growers to better forward manage price risk.

Workforce

The pressures of working in a COVID environment over the past 18 months has highlighted the role skilled talent from international markets plays in the productivity of the Australian grains industry. Historically, Australian growers have relied on skilled seasonal talent from regions with grain enterprises of the same scale and with similar machinery as Australia, such as Europe and North America. Labour is sourced from these regions to ensure that operators have the appropriate skills to operate heavy farm machinery safely and efficiently. Demand for additional seasonal labour in the grains industry peaks during the autumn-winter seeding and the summer harvest. Regional labour demands during these periods shift as seeding and harvesting conditions change requiring a mobile workforce. The skill requirements, narrow window of demand and changing location of work makes it difficult to maintain this workforce in Australia.

In a GrainGrowers policy survey, 'Labour/Skills shortage' was identified as the number one issue for WA grain growers (47%) and is in the top three issues identified nationally (27%). 95% of growers indicate they employ additional staff; at peak this can look like an additional five staff per farm on average, and 68% indicated they source their staff internationally. 81% of growers stated that sourcing of labour is set to be an issue over the next 12 months.

GrainGrowers has historically supported calls for the Agricultural Visa and welcomed the announcement regarding its establishment. However, for this Visa to be accessible, and fit for purpose for all of agriculture, it needs to consider the unique requirements of each commodity including grains.

GrainGrowers believes there is a shared responsibility by industry and government to develop and implement effective policy to secure access to this workforce over the longer term. To attract and retain workers in the grains sector requires businesses to establish a strong reputation as employers of choice and implement best practise to manage people and capability, including the development of career pathways and opportunities for progression. GrainGrowers is working to develop a *Grains Employer of Choice* program that demonstrates effective employee recruitment, engagement and retention while also achieving business productivity.

- The Agricultural Visa (AgVisa) be accessible and fit-for-purpose for all Australian agricultural commodities, including the needs of the grains sector. This would require the list of participating countries expanded to the Northern Hemisphere and ensuring the Visa is legislated.
- The Australian Government to partner with industry driven initiatives like GrainGrowers' *Grains Employer of Choice Program* that demonstrates effective employee recruitment, engagement and retention while also achieving business productivity.

Biosecurity

In the past five years, there have been three reviews of Australia's biosecurity response: the Craik Review (2017), the review by the Inspector General of Biosecurity on the adequacy of the Department's operational model to effectively mitigate biosecurity risks in evolving risk and business environments (2021), and the Australian National Audit Office's (ANAO) performance audit report on the Department's response to non-compliance with biosecurity requirements (2021). All reports indicated that Australia's biosecurity system is not keeping pace with the demands of the logistical environment. This has been made evident through the recent detections and interceptions of khapra beetle, a huge threat to the grains sector estimated to cost the industry \$15.5b over 25 years, were it to become established in Australia.

The Australian Government announced a \$400 million biosecurity funding package as part of the 2021/22 Budget to initiate the modernisation of the biosecurity system, with a particular focus on improved surveillance and screening technology. This is an important component of Australia's biosecurity system, and this funding commitment will go some way to keeping on top of the increased biosecurity risk resulting from growth in

containerised trade. However, the biosecurity system is complex and involves many elements. The announcement of the development of a National Biosecurity Strategy is welcomed and provides an opportunity to learn from the recent reviews and experiences to build a biosecurity system that can best reflect Australia's current and future requirements. Central to the development of the National Biosecurity Strategy is the need for Australia's pest free status to be maintained, and continued recognition in the international markets of Australia as a reliable provider of high-quality grain.

GrainGrowers seeks a reset of Australia's biosecurity system to ensure it is able to respond to changing biosecurity risks to avoid costs incurred from the establishment of new weeds, pests and diseases and ensure that biosecurity hazards are managed effectively. Specifically, GrainGrowers is advocating for:

A national approach – Agencies and governments (including Federal, State and Territory) committed to working together on biosecurity issues.

Transparency – Government working with industry to develop a sense of shared responsibility and trust.

Clear plans for improvement and review – Implementation of policy and work programs to address key aspects of the biosecurity system, including funding, human capacity and technology development.

Engagement with industry – An inclusive approach, engaging and partnering with industries and supply chains to understand and address biosecurity issues.

Resourcing – The development of funding models to adequately address changing biosecurity needs and threats.

Future focus – The development of a biosecurity system that can evolve with the issues and change in risk profile.

- The development and implementation of a National Biosecurity Strategy is appropriately resourced and through this process there is a policy and funding reset to ensure Australia's biosecurity system can respond to changing biosecurity risks.

Right to Repair

Cost of machinery, equipment, repairs and parts are one of the top three challenges facing grain growers (as identified in GrainGrowers' 2020 Annual Policy Survey). Agricultural machinery is a significant investment. Problems with machinery and inadequate consumer protections can result in significant ongoing costs for growers. A grain grower is reliant on working machinery to get the crop sown and harvested and if a piece of machinery is 'offline', critical business activities can be delayed. If crop is damaged (e.g., by rainfall) due to these delays, quality downgrades can result in significant loss of income for farmers.

- GrainGrowers welcomed the recent right-to-repair review undertaken by the Productivity Commission. Government is encouraged to adopt the recommendations, especially for the repair suppliers' obligation for agricultural machinery be introduced immediately.

Sustainability, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management

Maintaining Australian grains domestic and global competitiveness while reducing emissions and increasing carbon sequestration is a key ambition of the industry. The grains industry has and will continue to adapt practices, systems, and businesses to futureproof the sector, enabling farmers to operate sustainably and prosper in a changing climate.

Further, the grains industry has developed Behind Australian Grain, a sustainability framework for the Australian grains sector. This framework strengthens our industry's sustainability credentials and assists in ensuring we

continue to meet the changing expectations and needs of our consumers, the community, investors, and governments.

Sustainability of the supply chain is increasingly a key factor in purchasing and investment decisions. Therefore it is important that the entire supply chain, including the production sector, can demonstrate and communicate its environmental, social and economic stewardship.

This makes it imperative that farmers have the tools, data and information to make informed decisions pertinent to their location and type of operation and currently these are lacking in the carbon, environmental and natural capital fields. There is a clear role for government to the following support initiatives and incentives which will underpin the sector's contribution to the Government's target of net zero by 2050 and support economic, environmental, and social growth.

- Provide \$2 million to fund investment in education and awareness programs to assist farmers' understanding of carbon emissions, sequestration, offsets and markets.
- Provide \$2 million to Agriculture Innovation Australia to fast-track tools to measure and integrate carbon, biodiversity, soil and environment health data and reporting as part of farm management software.
- Introduce a new Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) loan to assist farmers undertake emissions reduction activities.
- Provide \$20 million investment over 4 years for investment in research and technologies to reduce grains related emissions produced on farm and/or embedded in farm inputs, and support pathways to carbon neutrality (net zero) or better which are economically and socially feasible for the grains sector.
- Provide \$10 million under the Building Better Regions Fund to fast-track viability assessment of regional low emissions fertiliser manufacturing capability in regional Australia and ensure funding under the Modern Manufacturing Strategy is directly allocated to improving domestic manufacturing for critical agricultural inputs.


Conclusion


GrainGrowers welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the 2022-23 budget consultation process. We appreciate the difficult headwinds facing the Australian economy and we believe the grains sector and agriculture can play a critical role in our economic recovery, if provided appropriate policy settings and targeted enabling investments. To discuss the recommendations outlined in this submission, please contact Zach Whale, General Manager, Policy and Advocacy (Zachary.Whale@graingrowers.com.au) on 02 9286 2000.



Stay in touch with GrainGrowers

Please visit us online or email
if you would like to hear more!


 1800 620 519


 enquiry@graingrowers.com.au

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