



## Partnership promotes protection for \$7 billion industry

For immediate release: Wednesday 18 February 2009

At a time when Australian agriculture is fighting the impacts of the 'GFCs', the Global Financial Crisis and Global Food Crisis, and preparing for the impacts of climate change, the grains industry received a boost to its defences when the *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan* was officially handed over to the Grains Council of Australia in Adelaide today.

The *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan* incorporates the latest scientific research and pest intelligence to identify the highest risk pests to the grains industry and provide a blueprint for protecting the industry from exotic pests and diseases.

Grains Council of Australia Deputy Chairman Jamie Smith said the *Biosecurity Plan* is a vital tool for Australia in the fight against exotic pests and diseases which pose a constant threat to the sustainability, profitability and viability of our \$7 billion industry.

"The review of this plan allows us to refocus our efforts to reduce the risk of incursions, improve pest surveillance and diagnosis and develop contingency plans to deal with any outbreaks," Mr Smith said.

The *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan* was developed by Plant Health Australia (PHA) in partnership with Grains Council, the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), the Australian Government and state and territory governments. It was funded by PHA.

PHA Executive Director and CEO, Greg Fraser, said "PHA is delighted with what has been achieved with the development of the *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan*. PHA will continue to work with Grains Council and GRDC to action this Plan. We have already developed a surveillance strategy, diagnostics protocols and are developing 30 contingency plans."

"We are also implementing a Grains On-farm Biosecurity Program, with a *Farm Biosecurity Manual*, training and Grains Biosecurity Officers on the ground to help grains producers secure their farms and secure their futures against exotic pest threats. This combination of industry blueprint and grower support gives the Australian grains industry a world-class biosecurity system," Mr Fraser said.

The official hand over of the *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan* was conducted at the (GRDC) Adviser Update today in front of over 600 scientists, researchers, advisers and agronomists from around the country.

"The GRDC Adviser Update is the perfect forum for the launch of the *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan*," noted Dr Rohan Rainbow, GRDC's Manager, Crop Protection, "as these people are the specialists who work with growers. They can promote the importance of good biosecurity to growers and help them implement good biosecurity practices on their properties".

More information on the *Grains Industry Biosecurity Plan*, and the 19 other industry biosecurity plans currently in place, is available on the PHA website at [www.planthealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au).

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To arrange an interview or access a photo from the launch, please contact Megan Leyson on 0412 400 861

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## **Background**

### **Grains Council of Australia**

The Grains Council represents and promotes Australia's grain industry and the interests of Australia's grain industry nationally and internationally. The Grains Council is committed to developing national policies aimed at cultivating a strong, innovative, profitable, globally competitive and environmentally sustainable grains industry.

### **Plant Health Australia (PHA)**

PHA is the lead national coordinating body for plant biosecurity in Australia. Working in partnership with industry, governments, researchers and others, PHA facilitates and manages improvements in biosecurity policy and practice across Australia's plant industries and builds capacity to respond to plant pest emergencies.

### **Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC)**

The GRDC is one of the world's leading grains research organisations, responsible for planning, investing and overseeing research and development, delivering improvements in production, sustainability and profitability across the Australian grains industry.

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