



## **MEDIA ALERT**

30/03/09

### **Grains Industry Forum brings together Government and industry to discuss whole-of-industry issues**

The Grains Council of Australia will be hosting the first Grains Industry Forum in Sydney tomorrow at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel, Circular Quay.

Grains Council Chairman Murray Jones says there has been a very positive response from both the wider industry and government to attend the Forum.

"I think the industry is ready to move forward and to work together to secure the long term sustainability of our industry and Australian agriculture.

"The Grains Industry Forum was initiated following recommendations from past Grains Industry Leaders Summits. Industry representatives at the 2008 Grains Industry Leaders Summit expressed the need for the whole-of-industry to come together on a regular basis to discuss and work on resolutions for whole-of-industry issues," says Mr Jones.

Three critical issues will be work-shopped at the Forum. This will be an opportunity for industry to bring forward and discuss broader issues within these topics. The topics include:

- **Facilitating Trade – A need for greater transparency**  
**Panel Chair: Peter Woods (CEO, Wheat Exports Australia)**  
Panel Members: Ron Greentree (grain grower, NSW), Ron Storey (Australian Crop Forecasters), Geoff Honey (CEO, Grain Trade Australia), & Malcolm Batholomaeus (Callum Downs Commodity News)
- **Biosecurity and Quarantine – One Biosecurity: A Working Partnership**  
**Panel Chair: Rob Delane (Executive Director AQIS, Deputy Secretary Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry)**  
Panel Members: Bill Murray (National Working Party on Grain Protection), Greg Fraser (CEO, Plant Health Australia), Mike Gilbert (AQIS) and Geoff Masters (ABB Grain)
- **Research and Development – the changing face of research**  
**Panel Chair: Peter Reading (CEO, GRDC)**  
Panel Members: Steve Jefferies (Australian Grain Technologies), Mark Laucke (President, Flour Millers' Council of Australia), Andrew Weidemann (grain grower, VIC), and Peter Flottmann (CEO, Grain Growers Association)

"We have a very well respected and passionate panel who will lead each of the discussion sessions, and I am extremely grateful for their support," says Mr Jones.

The Grains Industry Forum will be followed by a two day Grain Logistics Conference on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Sydney Harbour Marriott Hotel.

#### **Media:**

The Forum will be **closed** to the media, however, media interviews with the Grains Council or Panel members can be arranged between sessions.

**To arrange interviews please contact Tara Taubenschlag on 0421 774748**