

Input for the Business Plan for Grain Grower Representative National Body – 2009 / 2010

Invitation for input to the Business Plan

Work on the construction of a Business Plan for a National Grain Grower National Representative Body is underway. This is the major work identified by the National Grower Roundtable meeting of 29th October, 2009.

Considerable resources exist for such work, including:

- Background research and the final document prepared for the “Single Vision” Industry Strategy of 2004,
- National Forums and Summits held in 2008 and 2009,
- The ‘Bridging the Value Chain’ Project supported by DAFF of 2007-2008
- Grains Week papers and support documents of 2005, 2006 and 2007.
- Many separate internal and public documents available to GCA and others in the Grains Industry.

These are very valuable, and remove the need for much detailed ‘research’ for the Business Plan. However, given the developments that have occurred within the industry in recent years, and the work of other bodies, organisations and participants in the broader industry value chain, we seek to ensure we have the best information and opinions of the industry.

We are keen to be as inclusive as possible, and seek your input at this early stage in the work of assembling the Business Plan.

Many of you have formal research or consultative documents, many with well thought through ideas on several facets of how a national body should or could operate, be structured and funded. Some of these were outlined on the day at the Roundtable, though we are sure many would have thoughts or positions that are valuable that may not be formally prepared in papers or be widely available.

Business Plan Contents

It is likely that a Business Plan will contain sections detailing:

1. Roles and Functions for a national representative body
2. The Range of operations and ‘what this body will do’ as part of its normal business
3. A series of categories of the major activities and how these will be carried out
4. A structure for a national body, that captures the best blend of all parties preferences
5. Estimates of possible staff and some description of what their roles will be
6. How the body will interact with others in the value chain and the broader agricultural industries,
7. Estimates of costs for the running of a national body
8. How it will be funded – sources and likely contributions from each source
9. How it will show accountability

10. How it will interact with government agencies, levy funded organisations, the commercial sector of the industry and growers in general.

11. How it will show corporate governance and transparency

In the interests of ensuring we have clarity as to the many grower bodies, government agencies, GRDC and related organisations and the commercial sector we seek your input at this time.

If you have documents or papers that outline your view on any or all of the categories listed above, we would greatly value having these available.

If you simply have some ideas or comments to make that you would like to see included in the development of the Plan, likewise we are keen to have these.

We are interested in being as inclusive as possible, though hold no illusions that all views and positions will be able to be catered for and included. In this instance we need to be confident that as many positions as possible have been sought, and even if these cannot be included in their entirety, at least having these known ensures consideration and evaluation.

Please respond

Please send either papers or documents outlining your desires, positions or views about any of the aspects listed above, or simply a note with comments and your views to us.

In order to facilitate the timely preparation of a Business Plan we seek your contributions by 23 December 2009. Whilst contributions after this date are still welcomed, by contributing sooner you will have assisted the process.

In addition, we plan consultations through January 2010 with industry stakeholders prior to a Roundtable in February 2010 when a decision on the Plan will be sought.

You can use this document, and fill in under any of the heading below and return by email. We have listed the potential headings below and you can fill in where you wish, or only those areas where you have ideas you would like considered.

All inputs will be kept confidential and considered as valuable and genuine.

Contributions should be sent to either alan.umpers@bigpond.com or ben.gursansky@internode.on.net . You can also call either of us to provide any input you might have.

Our thanks for your help in this crucial activity,

Alan Umpers,
Umpers Rural Services Pty Ltd,
0263 437188
0428 432557

Dr. Ben Gursansky
Catalyst Consulting
0410 653255

Roles and Functions for a national representative body

The Range of operations and ‘what this body will do’ as part of its normal business

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