



Grains Council of Australia Information Update

Grains Council of Australia – Information Update – December 14th 2009 - #4

Attached is the input to business plan request from the working party that was sent out in November in the event that it has disappeared in your inbox. It has sections at the end of the document to make replying easier.

The following is a communiqué from the chairman of Grains Council to our current information distribution list.

Jamie would like you to be apprised of:

- The most recent communiqué sought input from those who attended the national roundtable, in the interests of the Working Party having a wide input from interested parties.
- You are very welcome to circulate this request among your members for input to this process, though this needs to be set in the context of the guiding principles agreed at the Roundtable (see related document and previous communiqués).
- GCA is sponsoring the rebuilding process to see a national grower representative body established by funding the initial drafting of the Business Plan. However, the phase of implementing the Plan, and the attendant details likely to be needed, will need assistance from across the industry.
- It is not about rebuilding of GCA per se but about having an effective national body that can represent grower interests, and work with the many organisations, agencies and bodies that grower interests require.
- GCA is committed to the process and seeks open communication between all grower organisations to ensure as many views and ideas are able to be included.
- The Working party
 - Was agreed to by grower bodies at the Roundtable in October to develop a Business Plan for a national body.
 - It operates independently of GCA.
 - It would like to see ideas, comments, hopes and aspirations from grower groups in the interests of considering as many of these as possible.
- It is preferred that any input you receive from your own members be compiled by your organisation before forwarding to the Working party. This will assist in ensuring the Working party is not inundated by an excess of varied responses. This will also give your organisation some feel and ownership of what is provided to the working party.

- There is interest at present in some quarters in the progress of the working party in drafting an early version of the Business Plan for consideration by all interested parties. The timelines and proposed process is:
 - The skeleton of the Business Plan is to be finalised by the end of December 2009
 - This first draft will then be discussed in person with the parties who attended the Roundtable, and potentially other organisations through January 2010
 - A national grower Roundtable will be held in February for a formal agreement on the Business Plan, and to map the steps for implementation.
- Through this time it is likely some media interest will develop. The working party will not be in a position to make any comment to the media about any elements of the Business Plan. It is important at this time that media speculation is kept to a minimum, and so any media enquiries to do with GCA be directed to Jamie or Andrew
- We intend that the process following the first draft be transparent, open and based on good will, and so will try and keep regular communications (like these communiqués) flowing within the grower bodies as at present.
- If you would like any additional people or parties to the communiqué distribution list please advise the GCA office
- Jamie Smith has recently met with AgForce Grains and was able to brief the group on the details and outcomes of both the AGM and the Roundtable. Jamie was able to outline the work plan and time frames for the development of the Business Plan by the working party.
- Jamie would welcome any opportunities to come and meet with groups around the country in a similar manner. This would also allow general discussion regarding input by your organisations to the planning process. He would also be able to discuss interaction about the current political climate he has had from the Minister's office in recent weeks and recent statements by the minister.