



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **GCA talks upcountry issues with Minister**

The Grains Council of Australia (GCA) has met with Agriculture Minister, Tony Burke, in Canberra this week to discuss the critical issues facing the grains industry including climate change, drought, and the Senate Standing Committee Report on the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008.

GCA Chairman, Murray Jones, highlighted to the Minister that while GCA supports the introduction of an accreditation scheme for multiple wheat exporters, one of the concerns for growers was the need to strike a balance on upcountry issues.

"It is a fine line between over regulating and giving too much control to the regional monopolies in storage and handling."

"Importantly, we need to ensure that growers aren't lumped with ongoing additional costs due to these changes," Mr Jones said.

GCA also discussed the need for the Federal Government to support a re-adjustment package and process for transitioning the industry good functions.

Mr Jones said that GCA will continue to work closely with Government on an information campaign to assist growers with a smooth transition to the new wheat marketing arrangements.

"GCA will be meeting with representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) and the State Farming Organisations in South Australia next week to discuss the design and delivery of information sessions for wheat growers around the country."

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