



MEDIA RELEASE

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Failed WTO talks disappointing for Australian grain growers

The collapse of WTO negotiations in Geneva is bitterly disappointing for Australian grain farmers.

Grains Council of Australia Chairman, Murray Jones, said the failure of the talks will cost Australian grain growers and exporters potentially Billions of dollars due to restricted market access.

"Australian grain growers are already facing significant challenges due to the longevity of the drought in many parts of the country and the strength of the Australian dollar.

"This failed result is deeply disappointing for our grain growers at a time when rising input costs including oil and fertilizer have already caused substantial pain for the industry.

"The inflexibility by countries such as India, European Union countries and the US to reduce or remove restrictive trade barriers such as tariffs and quotas and eliminate export subsidies will come at a cost for Australian growers," Mr Jones said.

Mr Jones said the loss of opportunity to export to new and expanded markets will come at a significant cost to our export reliant grains industry.

"The annual export volume of wheat totals 11,196,000 tonnes with an export value of \$2.76 billion*.

"The current international trading market remains significantly distorted."

Mr Jones said the breakup of negotiations by trade ministers from some 35 major WTO members was not only a serious setback for Australian grain growers but for developing countries around the world."

**ABARE, Australian Commodity Statistics 2007*

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