



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

3/10/08

---

### **Three day conference paves the way forward for Grains Council**

The Grains Council of Australia (GCA) has concluded its three-day conference and AGM in Canberra this week, a landmark event that included its new members WA Grains Group and the Council of Grain Grower Organisations (COGGO).

Grains Council Chairman Murray Jones said having representation from Queensland, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania around the table was fundamental to the success of the conference.

Mr Jones said it was disappointing for the grain growers of NSW not to have representation around the table.

"Over the past three days we have worked together on a number of issues including research and development, biosecurity and quarantine, climate change, infrastructure and trade.

"With significant changes in the industry over the past few months and with new challenges going forward, developing a strategic plan for GCA was also a priority for our members at the conference.

"The GCA Strategic Plan will be finalised over the coming weeks and will be launched at the end of the month," Mr Jones said.

The GCA members also took the opportunity to meet with the GRDC Board and executives for their bi-annual consultation.

"We had a very constructive consultation with GRDC, the last meeting with the current Board of Directors.

"We are happy with their current spending priorities and that they are being utilised in a strategic way to provide benefit for the grains industry.

"We intend to keep up a robust and close review of the priorities of the GRDC.

"GRDC has facilitated the release of more than 40 improved crop varieties and has supported the National Variety Trials which planted a total of 570 trials across Australia and are currently being reviewed.

"The National Innovation System review green paper (Cutler review) and End Point Royalties were also discussed," Mr Jones said.



A new GCA Board and Policy Council were elected at the AGM on 1 October.

**GCA Board**

Chairman: Murray Jones  
Deputy Chairman: Jamie Smith (South Australia Farmers' Federation)  
Treasurer: Lyndon Pfeffer (AgForce)  
Director: Geoff Nalder (Victorian Farmers Federation)  
Director: Doug Clarke (WA Grains Group)  
Director: Bruce Piper (COGGO)  
Director: Ian Hastings

**GCA Policy Council (second delegate)**

Russell Amery Victorian Farmers Federation  
John Agnew AgForce  
Donald Wallace WA Grains Group  
Bruce Eyres COGGO  
Peter Treloar South Australian Farmers' Federation

**Media Contact:**

Tara Taubenschlag 0421 774 748  
CMAX Communications