

MEDIA RELEASE

Embargoed to 6am Friday 6 June 2014

Friday 6 June 2014

Australian Growers Reinforce Commitment to GM Wheat

On the five year anniversary of the inaugural GM Wheat Trilateral Statement, Australian grain growers have today launched a renewed commitment to GM wheat, joining with global partners, to launch the 2014 GM Wheat Trilateral Statement.

Fifteen organisations in Australia, Canada and the United States of America, representing producers and millers, have come together publicly to confirm their support for genetically modified (GM) wheat research and development, innovation and science-based decision making.

To date, no GM wheat has been commercialised in the world, however, significant research is underway in Australia and around the world to improve wheat varieties.

Australian research includes work to improve the nutrient efficiency and yield of wheat. In addition to producing varieties better able to survive in dry conditions and modifying starch levels for improved human health outcomes, such as bowel health.

Wheat represents about 20 per cent of human calorie intake, making it an essential part of the global diet and critical to food security. Advanced breeding, including gene technology, will help ensure the continued availability of wheat, particularly improved end products, more sustainable production and environmental benefits.

Genetically modified crops are now 18 years old. In 2013, 175 million hectares of GM crops were planted in 27 countries, including the European Union, by 18 million farmers. Australian farmers are looking forward to GM wheat R&D investments reaching the marketplace.

Australian signatories note their ongoing commitment to work with the grain supply chain to deliver choice, including the supply of non-GM wheat, within reasonable tolerances, to markets that require it.

- Ends -

Media enquiries:

- Andrew Weidemann, Chairman, Grain Producers Australia - 0428 504 544
- John Eastburn, Chairman, Grain Growers Limited - 0429 325 020
- Wayne Newton, President, Agforce Grains - 0427 638 180
- Darren Arney, CEO Grain Producers South Australia - 0448186707
- John Snooke, Chairman, Western Graingrowers, Pastoralists and Graziers Association of Western Australia - 0417 964 362
- Brett Hosking, President, Victorian Farmers Federation Grains Group - 0427 593 051

ATTACHMENT ONE

Summary of GM wheat research in Australia

Entity	OGTR Licence	Crop	Research Details
Vic DEPI	DIR 122 (2013)	Wheat	Abiotic stress tolerance, yield
CSIRO	DIR 117 (2012)	Wheat & barley	Wheat - altered grain composition, enhanced nutrient utilisation efficiency Barley - enhanced nutrient utilisation efficiency
CSIRO	DIR 112 (2012)	Wheat & barley	Altered grain composition and nutrient utilisation efficiency
CSIRO	DIR 111 (2012)	Wheat & barley	Altered grain composition, nutrient utilisation efficiency, disease resistance or stress tolerance
Adelaide University	DIR 102 (2010)	Wheat & barley	Enhanced nutrient utilization & abiotic stress tolerance
CSIRO	DIR 99 (2010)	Wheat & barley	Growth & yield characteristics
CSIRO	DIR 94 (2009)	Wheat & barley	Enhanced nutrient efficiency
CSIRO	DIR 93 (2009)	Wheat & barley	Altered starch
CSIRO	DIR 92 (2009)	Wheat	Altered grain
Vic DPI	DIR 80 (2008)	Wheat	Modified for drought tolerance
Adelaide University	DIR 77 (2008)	Wheat & barley	Enhanced tolerance to environmental stress or increased dietary fibre