

Independent GRDC Governance Review Report Released

The Grains Industry has received a final report from Marsden Jacobs as part of the Independent Strategic Governance Review of the Grains Research and Development Corporation.

The Review was commissioned last year by a meeting of industry representatives to look at the GRDC's structural governance to ensure that it is able to meet the research and development outcomes that grain farmers will require in the rapidly changing operating environment.

Grain Producers Australia Chairman, Andrew Weidemann, has welcomed the report and is calling for all levy paying growers to provide feedback to guide an industry response to the report.

'Practice change led by the GRDC's world class RDE is a key driver to ensuring Australia's grain farmers remain profitable.'

'Growing exposure of Australia's farmers to world agricultural markets and reliance on newer farming technologies means that the importance of the GRDC will only increase in the coming years.'

'Growers have called for this review to ensure that the structure of the GRDC is best placed to deliver the benefits their businesses continue to require.'

'Grain farming representatives from across Australia will be coming together in September to develop a response to the report. We encourage all grain farmers to contact their representative organization with their view on the report so that these discussions are thoroughly informed.'

The Marsden Jacob's report has looked at whether the GRDC should remain as a statutory corporation or alternatively become an industry owned corporation similar to the MLA or Dairy Australia.

It recommended that in the long run the grains industry should support a move towards an industry owned corporation, however in the interim should seek to implement more corporate style governance arrangements and seek exemptions to government regulation to improve its operations.

Marsden Jacob's final report and more information on the GRDC Review is available at.

<http://www.grainproducers.com.au/about-us/corporate-documents/item/102-final-report-2014-grdc-governance-review>

Grain farmer representative organisation's involved in the review are:

- * Grain Producers Australia
- * VFF Grains Group
- * AgForce Queensland
- * Tasmanian Farmers and Graziers
- * Grain Growers Ltd
- * NSW Farmers
- * WA Grains Group
- * Grain Producers South Australia
- * WA Farmers

ENDS

For more information please contact:

Andrew Weidemann

Chairman

Grain Producers Australia Ltd Contact M 0428504544