

# BRIEF ON OPERATION GRAIN HARVEST ASSIST

## The Problem in 2021

- Australia was facing a chronic skilled farm labour shortage, following our international border closures in 2021 and the nation's hard border stance during the ongoing COVID19 pandemic.
- Our Grains sector was at risk of reputational harm and market failure especially from a lack of skilled heavy farm machinery operators as well as truck and other farm workers, central to the proper functioning of the entire grains supply chain. Potential losses on some farms could have been many \$millions, with \$billions at risk on a national level. OPGHA was established to address this need.

## The OPGHA Solution

- Within the Australian Community there are many thousands of Veterans who have served in the Australian Defence Force; they bring a wide range of unique skills and personal capabilities acquired both during their ADF service and in their post-Service employment.
- An estimated 200-300 Veterans answered the call to assist our Grain Growers during Harvest 2021. They formed close and effective relationships with Grain Growers and many are expected to return to the same farms for Harvest 2022.
- OPGHA plans to again conduct a strong marketing campaign to attract Veterans to assist in Harvest 2022.
- Steps are also being taken to train a number of Veterans on harvest machinery.
- **See the OPGHA website below** for more information, to register your contact details and to gain access to the East and West Coast Facebook pages which are the conduit for contacting the Veterans.

To discuss your harvest staff needs and for any queries on the Program, please contact Garry.

### Garry Spencer, AM

(Volunteer) National Facilitator

Operation Grain Harvest Assist

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