



Media Release

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRAINCORP RELEASES 2009/10 HARVEST QUALITY REPORT

GrainCorp has publicly released its inaugural eastern Australian wheat, barley and canola harvest quality report.

GrainCorp CEO Mr Ian Wilton said, "This 2009/10 harvest report represents a substantial investment in milling, baking and other quality tests and is a major contribution to 'common industry good' activities."

"Despite some recent public commentary alleging a decline in wheat quality, the data in our 2009/10 harvest report indicate that, aside from normal seasonal and regional variations, the milling and baking quality of wheat being received into the GrainCorp system from farm deliveries has not declined."

"The grain out-turned from our bulk network that is elevated onto export vessels is meeting relevant standards and, most importantly, meeting export customer contract specifications."

On the matter of feedback from the export market about wheat quality, Mr Wilton said, "There have been some quality problems with containerised exports reported this season. Most recently, there were media reports on a chemical residue problem with a shipment of containers to India."

"We need to keep in mind that incidents such as these relate to a fraction of total grain exports from Australia. They do not represent a trend that can be applied to all bulk or containerised exports of Australian wheat."

"Despite what some in the industry might claim, there were occasional quality problems with individual shipments under the single desk. It's important to look behind the headlines and to put the current problems into a proper context. The feedback bulk wheat exporters are receiving from their customers about quality is actually positive."

Mr Wilton cautioned against industry participants alleging that Australian wheat quality was 'on the slide'. "It's ill-informed commentary that poses the greatest threat to the reputation of Australian wheat exports."

"If the industry is not careful, a situation will emerge where the market believes that wheat quality is a real problem - *perception becoming reality* - when in fact the data show that eastern Australian wheat quality remains excellent."

"It is time for everyone to get behind the grains industry in a constructive, well informed and positive manner. If we do this, we can really take advantage of some of the many new opportunities that exist to grow a more profitable and dynamic industry," Mr Wilton said.

The GrainCorp 2009/10 Harvest report is available for download as a PDF from www.graincorp.com.au

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