

To Whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to raise some of the issues we had with Viterra from the last harvest.

I was always of the understanding that Grain Trade Australia's guide lines were the Bible, but it seems that they are not worth the paper that they are written on, when you can just use the bits that suit you.

As a private company there has been very little money invested in extra storage & maintenance which led to the long delays during harvest, costing farmers time and money.

I feel that not offering the growers access to a falling numbers machine and down grading our wheat visually was wrong, but to then test all the wheat with a falling numbers machine as it is out turned to the Port, and think that it is their right to keep all the profits from any up grades is criminal.

If the rumours are right, a lot of the feed wheat is being upgraded to milling grade.

Any profit from wheat being upgraded when it is put through a falling numbers machine should be returned to the growers.

The wrongful downgrading of wheat has cost our small community over 2 Million dollars which is far more than both Federal and State Governments put into the community through the drought and exceptional circumstances payments.

To stop this fiasco from ever happening again, the Grain Trade Australia guidelines need to be clearer and the organisation needs the teeth and the tools to make everybody adhere to them. As growers we need some form of dispute resolution policy in place so that we are not back here again next year.

Now that Viterra has admitted they were wrong and agreed to purchase falling number machines for every silo, they should look at righting the wrongs that occurred during harvest. They should make the falling number results of the feed wheat cells public, and then return all the profit from any upgrade to the growers who delivered into those cells. Viterra should not be allowed to profit from this fiasco during harvest.

Again Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee.

Yours Sincerely

Bevan Siviour