

To: Senator Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee,

It has been my experience as a farmer, end user of wheat and other grains in the stockfeed industry and former Chairman of a national grain industry body, Pulse Australia, that the single desk has not been operating well for growers while it has been a monopoly as administered by just one market operator/exporter.

The single desk should be just that and not a market participant. If it was an industry representative body, ie. governed by representatives from all sections of the industry, including but not limited to growers, traders, exporters, bulk handlers, researchers, retailers, stock feed manufacturers, end users and the like, it could administer the single desk without actually trading by licensing export applicants into each market considering who else is in that market, the price, the grade and quality and ensure that there is no conflict between companies selling Australian sourced wheat. Each potential exporter would compete at home for the grain from growers but would have the security of being the only supplier of Ausie wheat into a specific export market.

Each potential exporter could be required to submit their details including financial details, promotional practices, payment history, etc. prior to being awarded a permit or licence to export a particular grade, quality, variety, tonnage of wheat at a set price into a geographic region of the world over a particular time.

The cost of such a system can be fully recovered by a compulsory levy paid by the grower and deducted from the gross proceeds of the purchase price.

Politically it would sit fairly comfortably with all sides of politics, be no cost to the taxpayer, provide the element of competition for efficiency and the growers with a wide choice of competing buyers of their wheat.

This would utilise the expertise of already accomplished trading companies from around the world competing for Australian wheat.

I hope this is of some value and if there is any need for further dialog on the matter I can be contacted at either this e-mail address or at the numbers below.

Sincerely, Alan Hunter