

The Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Standing Committee

Inquiry into the provisions of the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 and the Wheat Export

Marketing (Repeal and Consequential Amendments) Bill 2008. The Bills provide for the establishment of a statutory entity, Wheat Exports Australia to regulate the export of bulk wheat from Australia through a wheat export accreditation scheme.

As a wheat grower I am concerned that the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 does not provide wheat growers with the clarity and certainty that is necessary so they can operate their business in an efficient and effective manner.

This submission highlights the following issues regarding the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008.

1. Possible loss of the benefits provided through a national pool as there is no provision under Bill for the existence of a single national pool which may result in the loss of valued benefits such as the Golden Rewards Pricing Scheme.
2. The current marketing skills and knowledge of growers is likely to not allow the efficient operation of their business within the new marketing environment.
3. The Bill must provide fair and open access to port and country facilities.
4. An independent body should be responsible for the administration of a quality assurance scheme in order to maintain Australia's reputation for the production and export of quality wheat.
5. The Bill should require as part of a company's accreditation to export wheat that the company agrees to collect end point royalties on plant breeder rights wheat varieties at a reasonable cost.
6. The costs associated implementing changes and with establishing a new system for the marketing of export wheat needs to be carefully considered because it is likely these costs will be passed back to growers.
7. Further consideration is required of the Wheat Export Marketing Alliance business plan as it proposes the involvement of an industry owned entity to perform some of the fundamental administrative procedures not currently proposed to be undertaken by Wheat Exports Australia.

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