



AUSTRALIAN SENATE

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL AND REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND TRANSPORT**

**REFERENCES COMMITTEE**

12 April 2012

**Inquiry into Operational issues in export grain networks**

**INTERIM REPORT**

On 23 March 2011 the Senate referred the following matter to the Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport for inquiry and report by 2 November 2011:

Operational issues arising in the export grain storage, transport, handling and shipping network, with particular reference to:

- a) any risks of natural, virtual or other monopolies discouraging or impeding competition in the export grain storage, transport, handling and shipping network, and any implications for open and fair access to essential grains infrastructure;
- b) the degree of transparency in storage and handling of grain and the appropriateness of any consequent marketing advantages;
- c) equitable access to the lowest cost route to market, including transport options;
- d) competition issues arising from the redelivery of grain;
- e) the absence of uniform receipt, testing and classification standards and practices and any implications for growers and/or for Australia's reputation as a quality supplier;
- f) equitable and efficient access to the shipping stem; and
- g) any other related matters.

On 1 November 2011, the Senate granted an extension of time for reporting until 22 March 2012. A further extension of time was granted on 21 March 2012 until 12 April 2012.

The committee held four public hearings. These were held in Adelaide on 30 August 2011, in Perth on 31 August 2011, and in Canberra on 16 November 2011 and 20 February 2012.

The committee intends to table its final report on operational issues in export grain networks on 16 April 2012 which would allow it to fully consider the evidence and conclude its deliberations.

Yours sincerely,

**Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan**  
**Chair**