



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Media Release

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ALP Export Wheat Marketing policy not reflective of what growers want

The Australian Wheat Export Marketing Policy released yesterday by the Australian Labor Party is not reflective of what Australian wheat growers want according to the Independent Member for New England Tony Windsor.

Mr Windsor said that the majority of Australian wheat growers wanted the Single Desk maintained.

“The Wheat Growers poll that I conducted in March this year returned an 82% response in support of a single desk structure for the Marketing of Australia’s bulk export wheat.

11% supported a multiple licensing system and 6% wanted a totally deregulated system.

The results showed little difference between wheat growers views regardless of which State they came from.

From my reading of the Labor Party policy, whilst they are saying that it is a ‘Single Desk’ for the control of wheat exports it is proposing at the same time increases in the choice to growers by allowing a number of selling options.

The Labor Party media release states ‘Rather than forcing growers to sell their export wheat through a monopoly exporter as is currently the case, under Labor’s plan there will be a single desk with multiple accredited exporters.’

Nearly 3,500 wheat growers responded to my survey which I presented to the Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry and tabled in the Parliament for all to see.

The Government and the ALP knew from this survey definitively what growers wanted and I would have thought that any new arrangements would have reflected this,” Mr Windsor said.

Further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868