



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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# **Wheat Export Marketing Bill needs farmers' close scrutiny - Windsor**

The release today of the proposed Wheat Export Marketing Bill needs wheatgrowers across Australia to give it close scrutiny as to its impact on them according to Tony Windsor, the Independent Member for New England.

Mr Windsor is also posing two questions to the Government about the changes proposed in the Bill.

“I want the Minister to inform wheatgrowers why the Government is going ahead with a “multiple seller” arrangement for export wheat when the great majority of wheatgrowers want a single seller?”

“A poll of wheat growers across Australia that I conducted last year indicated that 82% of them supported a single seller structure for the marketing of Australia’s bulk export wheat.

“I also want the Minister to explain the rush to bring about the changes proposed in the bill?”

“Climatic conditions across Australia’s wheat belt have improved dramatically as has the price for internationally traded grain.

“With these two favourable factors there is the first chance for some years for wheatgrowers to retrieve some of their financial losses of recent years.

“To achieve that goal there needs to be certainty in terms of marketing arrangements.

“Decisions are being made now at the farm level without any certainty at the export marketing level.”

Mr Windsor is also going to give wheatgrowers another opportunity to tell the Government their views on the new Bill by conducting another survey of all wheatgrowers on the proposed changes.

“Last year when the previous Government mooted changes I surveyed wheatgrowers across Australia asking them how they wanted their export wheat to be marketed.

“I will again be going to the wheatgrowers, asking them to have a close look at the Bill and then fill out the survey about the proposed changes.

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**For further information contact Tony Windsor, Ph (02) 6761 3080 or 0427 66 8868**

“It will be very important for wheatgrowers to participate in the survey and I encourage them to visit the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry website [www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/wheat-sugar-crops/wheat-marketing/legislation](http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/wheat-sugar-crops/wheat-marketing/legislation) to view the proposed legislation,” Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor says that with Senate numbers as they currently are, the passage of any legislation through the Senate prior to July 1 could be doubtful and will only further add to wheatgrowers’ uncertainty.

Mr Windsor is also critical of the Government’s apparent hypocrisy with regard to collective bargaining.

“I find it extraordinary how the Government exalts itself in winning an election on the basis that ‘collectivism’ in terms of workplace arrangements was a key plank of their philosophy when the opposite applies to wheatgrowers who have demonstrated in every poll conducted that they want a ‘collective’ arrangement for the marketing of their export wheat.

The same philosophy should apply whether its workers collectively bargaining for workplace conditions or wheatgrowers collectively bargaining for the best price for their export wheat,” Mr Windsor said.