



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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MEDIA RELEASE

3 April 2008

Wheat growers export marketing poll out NOW

With the Federal Government having released its draft legislation to change the way Australia's export wheat is marketed from a single desk structure to multiple licences, the Independent Member for New England, Tony Windsor is conducting another survey of Australia's 24,000 wheat growers.

In March 2007, Mr Windsor conducted a survey which indicated that of the options presented including multiple licensing and total deregulation, about 82% of Australia's wheat growers wanted a single desk structure to continue to market Australia's export wheat.

Mr Windsor says that this survey is seeking the input again of what wheat growers want for the future of their industry and whether they support the changes proposed by the new Government.

"Since my survey of wheat growers last year, there has been the Cole Inquiry into AWB and the wheat for weapons scandal and a change of Government.

The new Government has released its proposal for future export wheat marketing that abolishes the single desk structure and issues multiple licences to entities that meet certain requirements.

What I want to know is whether Australia's wheat growers want this change or not so that I can represent the definitive views of the growers to the Government," Mr Windsor said.

Mr Windsor will also present the results of the survey to the Senate Inquiry currently taking evidence about the proposed changes to the legislation.

"Whilst the Senate is conducting its inquiry into the proposed Wheat Export Marketing legislation, I believe there is a need to give every wheat grower the opportunity to have their say on the changes.

Not all growers can get to the hearings but the changes will affect all growers one way or another.

I therefore encourage all wheat growers to fill out the survey and return it to me by April 16.

After all, it is the future livelihood of all wheat growers that is being brought into question here," Mr Windsor said.

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

Wheat Growers' Export Marketing Survey – April 2008
PLEASE ENSURE THIS FORM IS RETURNED BEFORE WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL

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Brief Explanation of Options

Single Desk Structure

A single desk structure would mean all export bulk wheat other than bagged or containerised wheat would be exported via a single authority, which would also have the right to veto other bulk exports.

Multiple Licensing System – Government proposal

The Government's proposed changes involve an accreditation process that would licence eligible grain merchants to market Australia's bulk export wheat. This could mean over a dozen grain traders could be in the export market.

It entails the establishment of a statutory entity, Wheat Exports Australia, to regulate the export of bulk wheat from Australia through a wheat export accreditation scheme that will assess and licence suitably qualified companies to be exporters.

Website information: <http://www.daff.gov.au/agriculture-food/wheat-sugar-crops/wheat-marketing/legislation>

Total Deregulation

Growers wishing to export would choose who to sell to or through based on price and service.

Which option best represents your views? (Select One Only)

- I support a **"Single Desk"** structure for the marketing of Australia's bulk export wheat
- I support the proposed Government changes contained in the Wheat Export Marketing Bill 2008 to introduce a **multi-licensing structure** for the marketing of Australia's bulk export wheat
- I support **full deregulation** of export wheat marketing

To assist in the analysis I would like to know a little about you and your farm

A. What is your typical level of wheat production?

- 0-500t 501-1000t
 1001-5000t over 5,000t

C. What age group do you belong?

- Under 30 31 – 40 41 - 50
 51 - 60 61 +

B. Have you read the Government's proposed changes?

- Yes No

D. Your farm's postcode:

I am seeking your comments and opinions. (Attach a separate sheet if more space is required)
