



## Hay Industry Contributions to the Grains, Seeds & Hay Industry Funding Scheme

### What is an 'Industry Funding Scheme'?

Industry Funding Schemes (IFS) are a mechanism under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* that enable WA producers to identify pest and disease priorities at a whole-of-industry level, and then raise funds for programs that target these priorities.

With the number of new potentially serious pest and disease threats likely to grow into the future, the State's agricultural industries must be able to quickly respond to outbreaks that impact on their industry but are not covered under national arrangements.

### The Grains, Seeds & Hay IFS

The Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS is controlled by industry via an Industry Management Committee (IMC) comprised of a majority of producers, and others with appropriate industry expertise and knowledge.

Each year, the IMC determines which pest and disease threats require action, how best to deal with the threats, and what contributions will be needed from industry to tackle the problem.

In 2011/12, the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS collects a contribution of 30 cents per tonne of all grain and seed sold throughout the agricultural areas of WA. Charges only apply for the first sale to a registered receiver. The contributions fund a Skeleton Weed control program and a Bedstraw eradication program, and may also be used to manage potential future incursions.

Participants in the Scheme are entitled to benefits such as assistance and compensation (depending on the program). Contributions on qualifying transactions are mandatory in the first instance, but producers not wishing to participate can 'opt out' and receive a full refund of the contributions paid. Producers who wish to opt-out must do so before 30 June each year, and apply for a refund of their contributions by 31 July the following year. Producers who opt out still have the legal requirement to deal with declared pests, but are disqualified from receiving any assistance provided by the Scheme.

### Hay industry contributions to the Scheme

Since the Schemes inception in 2010, there has been no charge on the sale of hay. The Grains, Seeds and Hay IMC is proposing that a contribution rate of 15 cents per tonne is applied to the sale of hay within the agricultural areas of Western Australia, beginning 1 July 2012.

It is anticipated that registered receivers will collect contributions on the first sale of the hay (where a registered receiver is defined as a produce receiver who, for the financial year, receives or purchases 500 tonnes or more of grains, seed and/or hay). The sale of straw will not attract any charge.

### Industry feedback on the proposed changes

The IMC is inviting written feedback from the hay industry on the proposed introduction of a 15 cents per tonne contribution rate for the sale of hay, for the purpose of the Grains, Seeds and Hay IFS.

The IMC will use the feedback as a basis for any recommendations put forward to the Minister for Agriculture and Food. It should be noted that it is the Minister who has the authority to declare the Scheme's area of operation and the rate at which contributions are to be paid.

All feedback must be received by **4pm 13 April 2012** by email, fax or post (see below), or online at <http://www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au/IFS/Contact>

Rebecca Heath (Executive Officer, Grains, Seeds & Hay IMC)  
Department of Agriculture and Food  
PO Box 483 NORTHAM WA 6401  
Email: [rebecca.heath@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:rebecca.heath@agric.wa.gov.au)  
Fax: (08) 9622 1902

Visit [www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au/IFS/Grains](http://www.biosecurity.wa.gov.au/IFS/Grains) for more information on the IFS and the IMC.