

PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY – WHEAT EXPORT MARKETING ARRANGEMENTS

Rick Wilson, Leon Bradley and Janet Thompson appeared before the Productivity Commission's hearing in Perth on 3 May.

Due to grave concerns over monopolistic behaviour of the bulk handling companies, representatives of PGA encouraged another round of accreditation with WEA being extended to coincide with the 2014 deadline for port access under-takings oversight.

Submissions and additional information can be found at <http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/wheatexport/submissions>

The transcripts of the Perth hearings can be found here: http://www.pc.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/97866/20100503-perth.pdf

For further information, contact Janet Thompson, Policy Director.
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PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION INQUIRY INTO RRDCs

A working group was convened on 11 May to brainstorm on a submission to the PC on rural research and development corporations, specifically GRDC. In general, producers are concerned about decreasing productivity gains relative to the levy

percentage, apparent politicisation of the GRDC processes, and use of levy dollars in attempting to meet criteria for funding that is pre-determined by Government. Submissions are due on 25 June, and intense research is being conducted at this time. Details of the inquiry are available here:

<http://www.pc.gov.au/projects/inquiry/rural-research>

Do you have a view on how your levy dollars are spent, stories of how levy funds are allocated, examples of the politicised process, or most importantly, ideas on how to improve the system? Your input is welcomed and valuable. Please contact Rick Wilson or Janet Thompson to discuss in more detail.

WHEATBELT REGIONAL PLANNING STRATEGY

A land use planning strategy for the Wheatbelt area is being developed by the WA Department of Planning. Producers should be aware of the threats to property values in the development and implementation of such a centralised planning scheme. The discussion paper can be found here: <http://www.planning.wa.gov.au/Plans+and+policies/Publications/1995.aspx>

For a summary of the paper, or to discuss, please contact Janet Thompson
grains@pgaofwa.org.au

INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

In discussions about the grain freight network, it is important that money be spent on long-term, effective infrastructure development. Decisions that are made based on sunk costs will lead to future dollars being wasted.

PGA continues to progress solid policy decisions that will facilitate more freedom in marketing and additional development of the grains industry well into the future.

JAMES POINT PORT DEVELOPMENT

PGA President Rob Gillam continues to push the State Government to facilitate development of James Point near Rockingham as an alternative port site for WA grain and livestock producers.

Len Buckridge is willing and ready to develop the port for what would initially be bulk commodities and live export, with plans to expand into container services in stage two of the development.

For further information, contact Rob Gillam, Rick Wilson or Janet Thompson.

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