Quarterly biosecurity update highlights outcomes for grains

**10 February 2023**

GrainGrowers quarterly Biosecurity update released today highlights a range of key outcomes for the industry, with public debate on sustainable biosecurity funding and moves to deliver a more robust national biosecurity system.

The update outlines the critical importance of biosecurity to the grains industry and the need to give growers the confidence that the system can keep pests out and respond quickly to any incursions.

GrainGrowers General Manager Policy and Advocacy, Zachary Whale said the control of weeds, pests and diseases already established in Australia was estimated to cost growers over $5 billion annually, so it was essential to prevent further issues.

Mr Whale said the previous GrainGrowers Annual Policy Survey revealed that many growers have concerns over the biosecurity system.

“As a direct result, we have invested considerable time and effort in working with government and other concerned organisations to push for sustainable funding and measures that strengthen the system.”

“Biosecurity is one of those things that need to work seamlessly in the background because people often only think about it when there is an issue. Our members need confidence, and we are committed to undertaking work that can improve the system and deliver that security.”

Key outcomes for the grains industry outlined in the report include:

* The government announcement of $134.1 million over four years from 2022–23 to bolster biosecurity capability in Australia.
* A National Pest action plan has been developed for khapra beetle and is being actioned by the Federal Government.
* Grower concerns were presented to the Senate Committee Inquiry into Australia’s biosecurity measures and acknowledged.
* Plant Health Australia has been working to improve biosecurity preparedness across the grains industry.
* Long term, sustainable funding for biosecurity is back on the government agenda.

Mr Whale said GrainGrowers would continue to push for improvements to the system.

Further information on the report is available from the GrainGrowers website. (insert link)

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