

GRAIN GROWERS RESPONDS TO THE FEDERAL BUDGET

7 October 2020

With the release of the federal budget, the GrainGrowers report card for the government has some “achieving” on results for growers but “room for improvement” in other areas that GrainGrowers raised in its pre-budget submission on behalf of Australia’s second largest agricultural commodity.

The instant asset write-off uncapped for two years is a win for growers’ back pockets and a long standing ask of GrainGrowers.

Other good news includes continued funding for the ag vet chemicals program and workforce related announcements including the changes to Youth Allowance and ABSTUDY by demonstrating three months of farm work.

However, with many growers looking forward to a bumper crop and the grains industry poised to lead the COVID recovery, some straightforward support measures called for by GrainGrowers and other industry voices have not been recognised in this budget.

Australian grain growers will bear the brunt of devastating tariffs imposed by China on Australian barley, with an anticipated cost of \$2.5billion. The government has been called upon to invest \$20 million to an industry recovery fund to accelerate market development and capture opportunities in Australia itself.

“We know that this is a budget delivered in unprecedented times. It’s a broad approach and there are positive outcomes for growers, like many other Australians.” said Brett Hosking, GrainGrowers Chairman.

“It is good to see the significant investment in infrastructure in this budget however critical agricultural freight routes appear to have been overlooked.”

“What we are incredibly disappointed about is that the government has not seen fit to invest in the sector that is well placed to drive Australia’s economic recovery, particularly as the trade issues have been outside growers’ control. The Industry Recovery Fund is about ensuring export revenue comes back to Australia and this feels like a missed opportunity.”

About

GrainGrowers is a voice for Australian grain farmers with grower members across the country. We work to build a more profitable and sustainable grains industry for the benefits of Australian grain farmers. Our key pillars are policy and research, alongside leadership and events, designed to build on the knowledge and capability of growers. Our growers are at the heart of all that we do and the focus of our work.

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