

Accreditation

The accreditation process appears long and all too frequent. The time and expense incurred by some exporters and port operators I understand is astronomical in meeting the performance and probity tests to satisfy the WEA. This cost is inflated due to the compressed time frame, seeing operators urgently trying to gain accreditation right on the start of harvest. This all adds to uncertainty and confusion amongst growers who invariably end up footing the bill. One year on from deregulation, using a simpler system or acknowledging some safe guards that are already in place would suffice.

Acknowledging the ACCC requires a 3 year reporting period, I feel the WEA could use a system similar to the driver's license, taking into account history and performance. A 5 year renewal would be less disruptive and not as costly. New exporters and port operators would have a 12 month probation period (P plates). Applications should ideally be completed prior to the crop being planted.

As a grower, why should I have my exporter and port operator hamstrung from doing business on my behalf leading up to one of the most important periods in my year because an accreditation process is not efficient?

Ports, Storage and Handling

Bulk handling has stood the test of time as major supply chain efficiency in many industries. In my farming operation I do not have the capacity to store and handle a large portion of my crop and therefore rely heavily on CBH to do this for me. I and other users demand that they do this competitively, but I also require access to the numerous exporters that now operate after deregulation. If volumes are reduced then it stands that efficiencies are lost and growers will pay the price.

Transparency

I have reservations about increased transparency regarding grain in store. Post single desk, I like many other growers are still adjusting to the new marketing landscape and can see no reason why a third party should be intimate about a business decision I have yet to make. My grain is my business.

Industry Good

Gaps are appearing. Previous monopoly exporters and handlers can no longer afford to provide many of these services in a commercial environment.