

20 February 2024

Second Wheat Port Code Review
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Agriculture House
CANBERRA ACT 2601



Dear Reviewer,

RE: Submission on the Second Review of the Wheat Port Code

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) appreciates the opportunity to provide this submission to the Second Review of the Wheat Port Code.

The VFF agrees with the Grain Producers Australia's (GPA) call for an independent examination of the Australian grains market and supply chain. The grains market and supply chain have evolved since the Code was first introduced and there is a need to ensure any decision on future regulatory arrangements is informed by up-to-date information on market conditions.

This review should be undertaken by an appropriate independent agency such as the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) or the Productivity Commission. The review would be tasked with investigating the grains market and supply chain to understand the nature of the market and the relationship between the players. The review would then recommend an appropriate mechanism to ensure transparency in the market and enable fair and open competition.

The VFF agrees with the Grain Producers Australia that the current Code is no longer fit for purpose. The VFF notes this is also the view of the ACCC in its submission which finds that even if the current Code is amended, 'the regulatory burden of an amended Code is likely to still outweigh its benefits'. However, in the absence of the information from an independent review it is difficult to develop an alternative oversight mechanism.

The VFF thanks you for the opportunity to provide input to the Review of the Operation of the Regional Investment Corporation Act 2018. The policy contact for this matter is Glen Hepburn, Senior Advisor, Economics and Rural Affairs, via e-mail ghepburn@vff.org.au or phone 0427 440 048.

Yours Sincerely,

Craig Henderson
President
Grains Group
Victorian Farmers Federation