



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE, RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY**

*Chair: The Hon Dick Adams MP
Deputy Chair: Mr Alby Schultz MP*

Inquiry into the Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012

Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012

—inquiry report tabled—

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has today tabled its report into the Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012.

Over time, the Bill would fully deregulate Australia's wheat industry in line with recommendations contained in a 2010 report by the Productivity Commission.

A range of views on the Bill were put forward, including concerns that wheat quality and access to supply chain infrastructure would be compromised.

The Committee has recommended that the Wheat Export Marketing Amendment Bill 2012 be passed and has made a number of related recommendations:

1. An industry-funded entity be developed to deliver industry services, in the areas of quality, standards and stock information;
2. The Government consider appointing an industry-funded 'Grains Industry Ombudsman' for a five-year period; and
3. The Government support better sharing of wheat stocks information, possibly by allocating funds from the new Wheat Industry Special Account.

Hon Dick Adams MP, Committee Chair, said: "The wheat industry has a great potential for growth. I look forward to seeing the reforms in the Bill assist with making this potential become a reality."

"Deregulation will only occur if a sufficient voluntary industry code of conduct is agreed to and approved by the Minister, although negotiation on a viable code will be a considerable challenge."

The inquiry, which commenced in March 2012, received 20 submissions and held two days of public hearings, taking evidence from government and non-government stakeholders.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, the Hon Dick Adams MP, on (03) 6398 1115 or email D.Adams.MP@aph.gov.au

Further information: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 4500, email arff.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the Committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/arff>