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EP Grain 2011/12 harvest pools – deliver soon for maximum benefit

EP Grain is encouraging all growers considering delivering to any of its wheat, barley or canola pools to do so promptly, because it assists pool performance and means a better result for growers, according to EP Grain general manager, Tim Burrow.

“Our pools are about maximising performance for growers and the sooner we can confirm delivered tonnages and quality profiles, the more we can advance our marketing and logistics program,” Mr Burrow said.

“In addition to the direct benefit to the pool program, the sooner a grower delivers, the sooner they can start receiving cash flow.

“The third point, and it’s crucial for growers at this stage of the season, is that with harvest now close to complete in most regions of Australia pools will start to close, meaning growers can miss out on important market choices if they leave delivery too late.

“It’s all about maximising grower benefits; our pools are all open at this stage and we want people to have every opportunity to utilise them, so I’d encourage growers considering delivery to contact any of our local grain merchants very soon.

“We have just updated our estimated pool returns (EPRs), with 2011/12 season wheat EPRs increased by \$2-\$8 a tonne across all port zones and barley EPRs up \$1 a tonne for malt and \$3 a tonne for feed. Canola 2011/12 pool EPRs are unchanged, as are EPRs for all grains in 2010/11 season pools.

“In broad terms the world economic environment has started this year with a slightly improved outlook that is supportive for soft commodities globally. Notwithstanding some market readjustment after last week’s USDA world supply and demand report, we still see grain prices gaining support from concern about dry conditions in South America, with particular emphasis on the corn crop.

“We are seeing strong open demand for hard milling wheats into the Middle East and Asia, which we expect to continue over the next six to seven months.

“World prices for malting barley are weak however the view is that strong demand will emerge and the pool will be seeking to capture sales. Feed barley is relatively firm due to tighter supply and demand and the pool has already made excellent sales.

“Canola has suffered from a long period of no demand, but Europe is resurfacing as a buyer and Australian canola is relatively competitive into northern hemisphere markets.

“With the recent announcement of our restructured trading and marketing division that combines enormous pool management and marketing experience with the strength of our grower-focused, locally based merchants, our grower customers can feel confident about EP Grain’s commitment to their needs,” Mr Burrow said.

For further information on EP Grain’s pool returns or distributions call 08 8682 4955 or visit www.epgrain.com.au

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Background information

EP Grain is a joint venture between Eyre Peninsula grower based and unlisted public company FREE Eyre Ltd and leading Australian grains manager Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd.

EP Grain services the very specific needs of Eyre Peninsula grain farmers. Proudly local and farmer focused, this unique organisation provides a transparent, competitive suite of marketing products to grain producers in the Eyre Peninsula region of South Australia.

Headquartered in Port Lincoln, EP Grain joint venture partners maintain regional and joint venture offices in Adelaide, Melbourne, Ballarat, Horsham, Swan Hill, Wagga Wagga, Tamworth, Toowoomba, Perth, Albany, Esperance, Geraldton and Merredin.