



NWPGP 50

National Working Party on Grain Protection





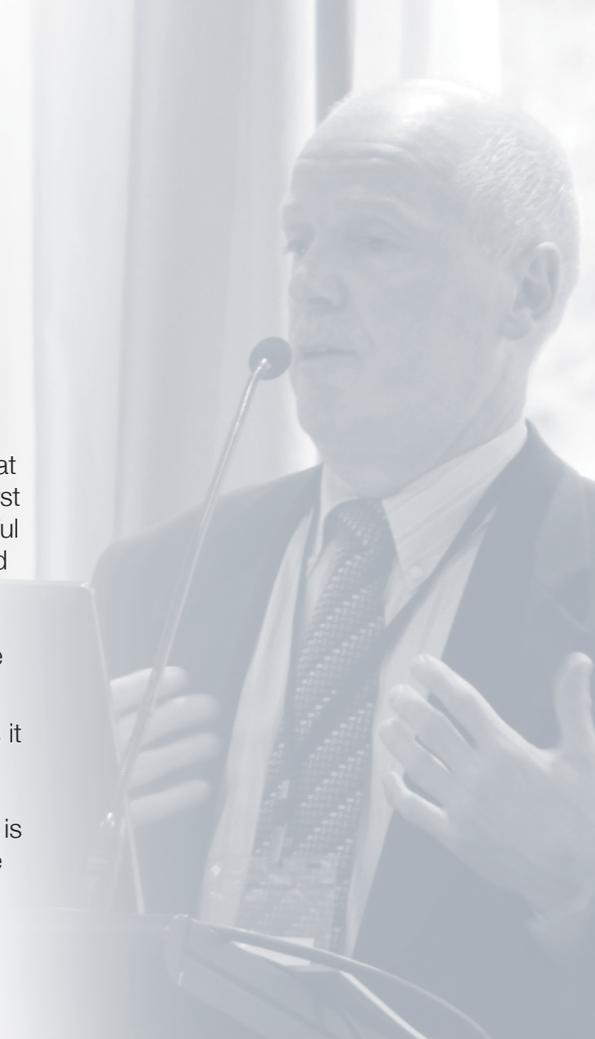
Message from the **CHAIR**

It is with great honour that I welcome you all to the 50th year celebration of the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP).

50 years is an important milestone for not only the NWPGP but also the role that it has played in the Australian grain industry. Without the efforts of those who first formed the NWPGP, the storage system as we know it today, and the successful market access that the industry has both domestically and internationally, would be very different. That success not only relates to Australian grain, but through Australian efforts at Codex, many of the stored grain insect control chemicals available today were registered and thus made available to countries across the globe where grain is stored.

That effort often goes unrewarded, and it is pleasing that the NWPGP today, as it has evolved over the last 50 years, continues to innovate and engage with all sectors of the Australian grain industry to maintain that effective insect control and maintain our market access. The reputation of the Australian grain industry is second to none, and I thank all of you today, and all past supporters, who have contributed to that success.

Gerard McMullen





Humble BEGINNINGS

The AWB was founded to control wheat exports from 1948. Prior to 1973, the AWB ran the annual Pest Control Conference. Those continued until 1980. Present were all of the State Statutory Storage Marketing Authorities (such as the Grain Elevators Board of Victoria) who managed the storage of wheat and other grains, the Stored Grain Research Laboratory (part of CSIRO), State Departments of Agriculture and the AWB. The Conferences were formed to manage compliance with the Export Grains Regulations legislated in 1963 that required nil tolerance for live stored grain insects in exports. The Conferences were designed to discuss the technical aspects of the storage of grain, issues arising and mainly, how to manage insect infestations. In fact, those Conferences continued on an hoc basis until recently.

Most export shipments were treated with malathion from 1960 in order to control insects but by the early 1970's, it had lost its effectiveness. The relatively loosely imposed freedom from insects in shipments for the major market at the time, the UK, was tightening. Around the same time, exports to China and the USSR were then required to be insect free on discharge otherwise disinfestation costs could be claimed (reportedly £1m on 1m tonnes for one particular year). Dichlorvos was introduced around that time, but it was recognized an Integrated Pest Management approach was required involving less protectants, more fumigants and use of temperature controls. Sound familiar?

But with the rapid failings of malathion, a short-term solution was needed.



Evolution of NWPGP

Today, the National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) is the body responsible for providing management and leadership to the industry in the areas of post-harvest grain storage and hygiene, and chemical use, outturn tolerances, international and domestic market requirements and chemical regulations. It coordinates and provides the Australian government with industry views on chemicals in use on grain and associated products, as they relate to market access domestically and for exported commodities.

The NWPGP initially included just the State-based Bulk Handling Companies, the Australian Wheat Board, government and researchers. In recent years, it has evolved to include all sectors of the supply chain, recognising the role that all stakeholders have in ensuring the safe and effective use of chemicals and supply of grain that meets both market and regulatory requirements.

The NWPGP now has members across the entire grain supply chain. These include stakeholders such as:

- Crop breeders
- Commercial chemical service providers & users
- Growers
- Grain processors, both for human consumption and stockfeed
- Government bodies, including regulators
- Chemical Registrants
- Storage providers
- Traders/Marketers
- Transport companies
- Research organisations

Grain Trade Australia provides a range of administrative support functions to the NWPGP and Grains Australia funds the activities of the Chair.

The NWPGP hosts an annual forum providing participants with the latest research and developments, in the area of post-harvest storage and hygiene, chemical usage and outturn tolerances, international and domestic market requirements, and regulations.

Noteable past and current
CHAIRS

1973-1980

Jack Cass
AWB

1981-1985

Jack Snelson
DPI Canberra

1986-1996

Greg Hooper
National Registration Authority

1997-1998

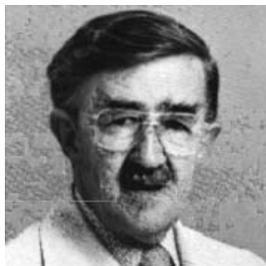
Joint Chairs

1999-2015

Bill Murray
GRDC Consultant

2016-current

Gerard McMullen
GRDC/Grains Australia Consultant



Important MILESTONES

1960

Virtually the entire Australian crop treated with grain protectants.

1976

Fenitrothion and Bioresmethrin first used.

1986

Siroflo first trialled.

1990

Approximately half the Australian wheat crop now fumigated.

1997

AWB and BHCs commenced hosting NWPGP conference on an alternating basis.

2000

Milling trial protocol for protectants first implemented.

2006

Phosphine Resistance Management Strategy first developed.

2010

The Strategic Working Group is formed to assist planning for the NWPGP.

1973

First meeting reported, hosted by AWB. Convened by QLD DPI.

1986

Grain protectant usage up to this point was over 95% of all exported grain. Industry agreed to ROL (recommended outturn limit) of half for all grain protectants. Industry push to reduce protectant usage from this point onwards.

1986

Up to and in subsequent years all of the new grain protectants used in Australia were developed through the NWPGP generating entomological and residue data. Relevant chemical manufacturers provided other required registration data. These included chlorpyrifos-methyl, dichlorvos, fenitrothion, pirimiphos-methyl, bioresmethrin, deltamethrin, methoprene, permethrin, phenothrin, carbaryl, pyrethrins, piperonyl butoxide.

1994

Revised & greatly extended National Residue Survey implemented.

1997

Bill Murray consultancy to GRDC commenced to co-ordinate registration of grain protectants and fumigants.

2005

Less than 20% of the Australian wheat crop now treated with grain protectants.

2010

Grain Trade Australia commenced hosting and administering the NWPGP.

2023
**50th Year
of NWPGP**

THANK YOU

Volunteer participation has been vital to the ongoing development and success of the NWPGP.

As Chair NWPGP, I would like to thank all the past Chairs, volunteers and contributors to research, meeting and conference attendees and those who administered and funded all NWPGP activities that has made NWPGP what it is today.



This year the Australian Grain Storage & Protection Conference will take place on 7-8 June 2023.

For program and venue information please visit
graintrade.org.au/nwpgp

The Australian Grain Storage and Protection Conference is convened by Grain Trade Australia and chaired by National Working Party on Grain Protection (NWPGP) which is funded by Grains Australia Limited.



