



**CHAIN OF
RESPONSIBILITY
SUMMARY REPORT
2022**



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Cover: *Wheat* - Lisa Jeitz

Inside cover: *Inspecting the crop* - Phillip Down



BACKGROUND

Australian grain farmers grow some 45 million tonnes of wheat, barley, oats, sorghum, canola, and pulses such as chickpeas and faba bean, which at the farm gate alone is worth \$13.5 billion. This annual production generates more than 170,000 jobs in rural, regional, and metropolitan areas across Australia. The grains industry accounts for nearly a quarter of the total value of Australian farm export income.

The grains industry relies heavily on road freight and thus changes to Chain of Responsibility (CoR) laws have had a far-reaching impact on the grains industry.

Through feedback received across industry bodies, it was evident that there was lingering confusion and fear among growers as to what exactly their responsibilities are under changes to the law. GrainGrowers was keen to harness its national reach to ensure growers across the country were able to benefit from a practical, hands-on course that clarified what was required from an on-farm perspective.

GrainGrowers with support from the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator delivered a series of CoR workshops across NSW, VIC and QLD.

The workshops directly addressed the issues raised by growers and dispelled many myths surrounding CoR. They were an outstanding educational tool for growers on their responsibilities under changes to the law.

The workshops covered two key initiatives:

- 1. Delivering heavy vehicle safety outcomes by providing growers and other producers with accessible information about their responsibilities along the supply chain**
- 2. Providing growers with material and ongoing support of up to a year to increase their overall safety awareness and compliance**

The focus was on educating growers on where current confusion exists, particularly around the following topic areas:

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Scope of the framework and when it applies to them | Fatigue management laws | Safe loading and unloading | Adherence to mass and dimension guidelines |
| Speed management | Vehicle standards and maintenance | Document trials and proof of compliance | Penalties for non-compliance |

WORKSHOPS DETAILS

Allora, QLD

20 August 2021
25 attendees

Emerald, QLD

17 August 2021
22 attendees

Condamine, QLD

1 September 2021
30 attendees

Moree, NSW

11 March 2022
6 attendees

Dubbo, NSW

10 March 2022
20 attendees

Wagga Wagga, NSW

9 March 2022
16 attendees

Barnawartha, VIC

1 March 2022
14 attendees

Horsham, VIC

3 March 2022
20 attendees

Elmore, VIC

2 March 2022
21 attendees

FEEDBACK

94%

of workshop attendees said they would recommend the training course to others

88%

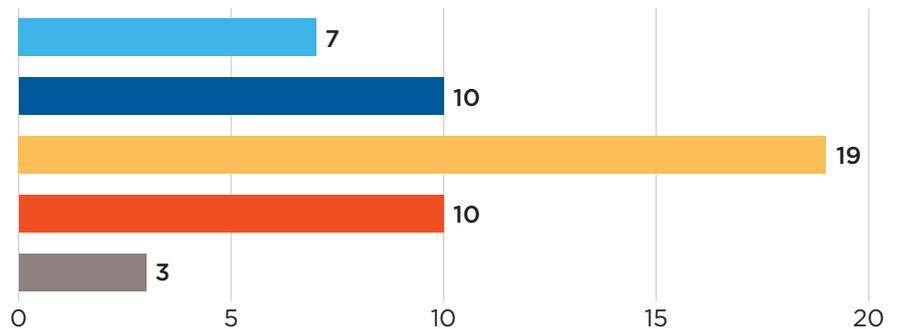
of workshop attendees said they planned to make changes to their business as a result of what they learnt from the course

94%

of workshop attendees said the course was very relevant or relevant for their business

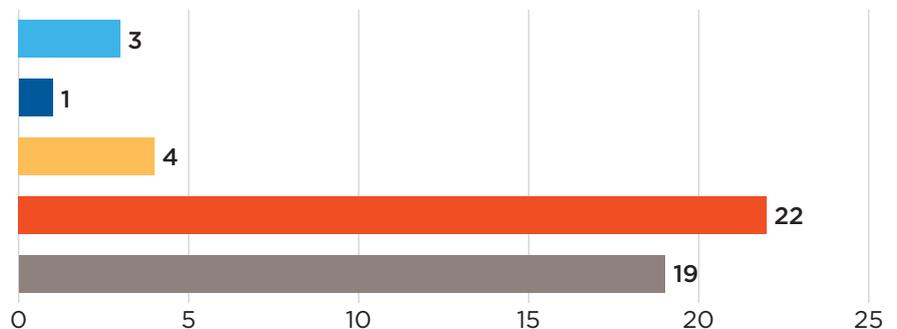
What was your level of understanding of Chain of Responsibility legislation and your role within the chain **BEFORE** the training course?

★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆
2.8 Average Rating



What was your level of understanding of Chain of Responsibility legislation and your role within the chain **AFTER** the training course?

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆
4.1 Average Rating



COVID-19 IMPACT

The GrainGrowers CoR workshops were originally scheduled to take place in 2021. As COVID lockdowns shut down state borders and restrictions were put in place regarding events, these had to be postponed. The facilitator was also unable to travel to attend and deliver the sessions.

An online workshop was held, in lieu of face to face courses however feedback from participants was that an in-person format was preferred. Participants felt that online, the ability to ask questions or check relevant scenarios was more limited.

GrainGrowers does have the workshop recording on its website and has found it a useful resource to direct people to when they have said distance/ timings and COVID has impacted their ability to attend a course in person.

WHAT WORKED

The in-person delivery worked well with farmers being able to ask questions specific to their operations. The facilitator also offered 1-1 discussions over the phone and provided further information if required.

The events geographically provided a good level of coverage and access to growers. Feedback verbally was positive. It did create discussions on farm as one member who attended tried to relay the information learnt back to the family which resulted in the need to get the facilitator to follow up to assist in helping them further interpret compliance for their business.

WHAT TO IMPROVE

For the QLD workshops, GrainGrowers was somewhat reliant on other stakeholders for event management, with strict border lockdowns in place. Ideally, as a GrainGrowers event, it would have been preferable for GrainGrowers staff to manage this.



Spring Swing - Poppy Ferguson

CoR MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

GrainGrowers undertook an extensive marketing and publicity campaign to ensure the workshops and the benefits of attending was promoted.

GrainGrowers e-news (circulation 10,000 + growers)

E-news
11 March 2022

Open rate:
35.95%

E-news
25 February 2022

Open rate:
37.91%

E-news
11 February 2022

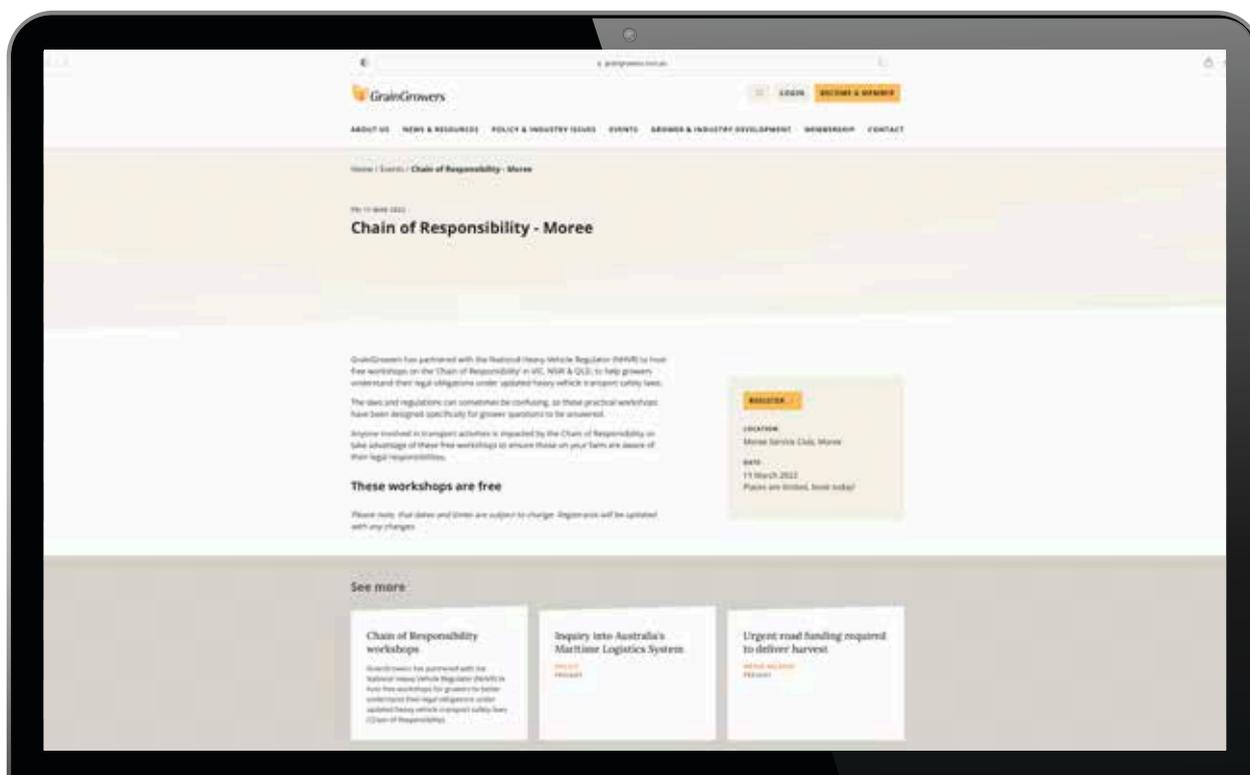
Open rate:
39.38%

E-news
28 January 2022

Open rate:
40%

E-news
17 December 2021

Open rate:
34.66%



Grain Grower magazine (circulation 12,000 households approximately)

April 2022 Edition

Protect your grain farm and reduce the risk of electrical incidents with Achmea Australia's Five Steps to Electrical Safety

ACHMEA AUSTRALIA

Farm activities put farmers at a higher risk of electrical incidents. Grain farmers are urged to set aside time to review their electrical safety and take action to reduce the electrical incidents.

A new strategic collaboration between growers and specialist farm insurer Achmea Australia, organisations aim to provide a platform for the grains industry to share knowledge, risk mitigation strategies and best practices.

"In addition to death and injury, electrical incidents can cause significant property damage and it is important to make people aware of the importance of electrical safety," according to Richard O'Farrell, National Strategic Alliance Manager at Achmea Australia.

"We hear first hand the distressing stories from members of the farming community about electrical incidents on farms and as an industry we must do our best to prevent them," Richard said.

Contributors to electrical incidents on farms and in rural areas are typically:

- Poorly maintained equipment
- Contacting overhead powerlines
- Unsafe electrical equipment, and
- Not being installed on power circuits.

Changes can help protect yourself, your family and your farm. Richard said:

"If in doubt, always consult a licensed electrician." Richard said "Our priority as Australia's specialist farm insurer is to protect our people, clients and communities so that our farmers can continue to produce fresh food and fibre for Australian families," Richard said.

"The destruction caused by the recent string of catastrophic events has served to remind us of the essential nature of food security, reinforcing the value of the agriculture sector and the importance of adequate risk mitigation to ensure the continuity of supply," explains Richard.

Achmea Australia does not warrant that the information contained herein is accurate, reliable, complete or up to date, and to the fullest extent permitted by law, disclaims all liability of Achmea Australia and its Associates for any loss or damage suffered by any person by reason of the use of this document or any error or defect in this document, whether arising from the negligence of Achmea Australia or its Associates or otherwise.

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About GrainGrowers and Achmea Australia
GrainGrowers and specialist farm insurer, Achmea Australia have entered into a new strategic collaboration. With a focus on industry collaboration and sustainability, the collaboration will look to encourage and support one of Australia's largest agricultural sectors to feed the world and help achieve the sector's ambition to reach \$100 billion of farm gate value by 2030.

Working together, GrainGrowers and Achmea Australia aim to provide a platform for the grains industry to share knowledge, risk mitigation strategies and best practices to tackle shared challenges together.

About Achmea Australia
Achmea Australia is part of the Achmea Group, which is one of the largest insurance companies in the Netherlands. The Achmea Group has approximately 13 million clients worldwide and is fully dedicated to farm insurance in Australia.

achmea farm insurance
achmea.com.au | 1800 724 214 | info@achmea.com.au

Issued by Achmea Australia by the Electrical Safety Office, Queensland, Office of Industrial Relations (September 2019)

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN GRAINS

International Women's Day 2022 was celebrated with a GrainGrowers members and guests' lunch in Wagga Wagga, co-hosted with Achmea Australia.

The event provided a valuable networking opportunity and guests heard from keynote speakers Amelia Shaw, GrainGrowers Policy Manager, Trade and Rural Affairs and Emma Thomas, CEO Achmea Australia. Emma and Amelia shared their experiences working in ag and offered some thought-provoking insights.

"It was great to be able to connect with so many women in grains and talk about challenging the internal bias of what leadership looks like in agriculture," said Amelia Shaw. GrainGrowers also announced its participation in the National Farmers Federation's 2022 Diversity in Leadership Program.

International Women's Day 2022 guests' lunch, Wagga Wagga

TRANSPORT SAFETY SESSIONS HIGHLIGHT ROLE IN THE CHAIN OF RESPONSIBILITY

GrainGrowers partnered with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) to host free workshops in NSW, VIC and QLD to help growers understand what 'Chain of Responsibility' means in practice under updated heavy vehicle transport safety laws.

With lots of information circulating that isn't always correct, it was an opportunity for growers to ask questions specific to their farm situation directly to an experienced facilitator.

For growers unable to attend a CoR session in person, GrainGrowers has a webinar that can be accessed online at any time via graingrowers.com.au

December 2021 Edition

WHAT'S DRIVING PROFITABILITY FOR GROWERS?

There are a number of factors that drive grain farm profitability. Earlier this year, GrainGrowers undertook a research project with Thomas Elder Markets to help ensure adequate focus on the main drivers of profitability for growers.

What is profitability?
On-farm accounting of profit is defined as income multiplied by yield minus costs.

Income - the price received for the output of the farm e.g. income from grain/oreseed sales.

Yield - the volume of grain produced for the given area.

Costs - total costs of producing the crop deducted from the crop income.

INCOME x YIELD - COSTS = PROFIT

What factors influence profitability?

Weather specifically growing season rainfall, is the most significant driver of yield on Australian growers.

Research conducted in Australia both privately and publicly has resulted in broadly consistent growth in yields. To continue the expansion in yields, continued research will be required.

How is GrainGrowers focussing on yield drivers?
Yield is an important driver of profitability and GrainGrowers is working on:

- Our key role as a Representative Organisation to the OGRIC to represent grain farming levy payers and ensure adequate focus on ROI/EI investment that delivers grower profitability.
- Policy research, submissions and ongoing advocacy on key issues related to Australia's agricultural innovation system, biodiversity and drought policy.
- Development of the Grains Sustainability Framework, which focuses on improved water use efficiency and input utilisation, soil health, and pest, weed and disease management across the whole production sector.

Costs
One of the areas that has had major changes over the last 12 months has been major price rises and challenges to availability of major farm inputs. The chart below shows some of the major farm costs across all industries and how they have changed from 1990 to the present.

The main areas of focus are fuel, fertiliser, chemicals, repairs and wages, as they have the most significant influence on the costs of a farm.

Income
Alongside income, yield and the management of cash, the business owner is also an important factor when determining Farm management influences aspects of profitability in capacity.

Domestic demand is becoming more critical to the prices received by Australian growers, especially in the eastern states. The largest driver of basic levels is the local supply of grain. When supply is low, the basic level tends to rise rapidly, providing growers with a very strong premium over international values.

International supply is a major factor influencing income. Access to markets, reputation of quality grain and efficient supply chains are important elements here.

Risk management plays a role in increasing the overall return to the grower, especially since majority of sales by Australian growers happens during the harvest period.

Carbon awareness by consumers, leads to the increased volatility of carbon trading. As this is a new industry, growers need to be informed about carbon trading schemes.

How is GrainGrowers focussing on income?
GrainGrowers is working towards maintaining income for growers through key initiatives such as:

- Establishment of Grains Australia to streamline key industry activities related to trade and market access, grain classification and market information and education.
- Trade and market access advancements such as representation in the WTO (dispute with China regarding barley tariffs), policy research, submissions and ongoing advocacy on international trade and supply chain issues, and development of grower resources.
- Sought grower feedback through micro surveys to provide input on projects and advocacy activities on issues such as improving the Farm Management Deposits Scheme and helping resolve farm workforce challenges.
- Working closely with AEGIC on research and innovation to help underpin positioning of Australian grains in a global marketplace.
- Masterclasses Webinars for growers on issues such as attracting farm labour, time management and the Chain of Responsibility in Heavy Vehicle regulation.

Embracing Ag-tech
What's driving profitability for growers?
State of the Grains Industry

Australian growers highly skilled and to grow grain efficiently under a variety of conditions. The future of Australian grain profitability, especially when it comes to global competition, GrainGrowers is making efforts to deliver profitability and growth for Australian growers.

JOIN TODAY

GrainGrower is published by GrainGrowers, an independent and technically resourced, grain farmer representative organisation with grower members across Australia.

Facebook ads



Barnwartha

reach: **5,480** | clicks: **136**

Elmore

reach: **6,086** | clicks: **150**

Dubbo

reach: **4,873** | clicks: **106**

Horsham

reach: **4,246** | clicks: **143**

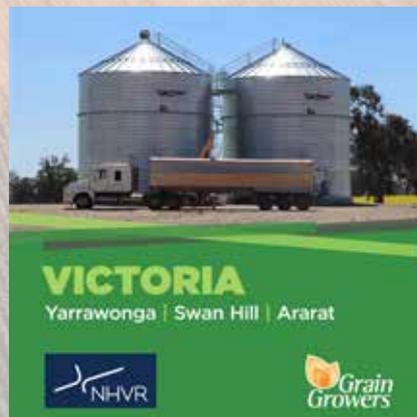
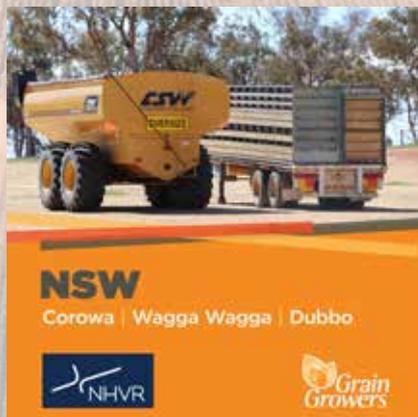
Moree

reach: **3,816** | clicks: **116**

Wagga Wagga

reach: **5,122** | clicks: **127**

Twitter ads



NSW/VIC workshops

impressions: **249,759**

Time for a trim - Jem Hawker

Media coverage

← → ↻ couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/chinchilla 🔍 ☆ R ⋮

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Explicit acts at school, parents
A meth user, caught committing unspeakable acts near a Gympie primary school and children's playground, claimed he was trying to feel 'even more euphoric'.

Rockhampton town over inappropriate conduct
A Rockhampton private school has sacked one of its directors after the pastor made admissions about inappropriate conduct while on an overseas trip as part of his job.

Serious train charge
A former Queensland council executive allegedly transferred money from a foundation aimed at helping the Indigenous community to pay a local mayor.

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Free legal workshops announced for Western Downs farmers
Farmers are urged to attend a free Condamine workshop explaining Chain of Responsibility laws to ensure produce is transported safely, as the industry accounts for 26 per cent of the nation's work fatalities.

Facebook hits the wrong note for music legend
During Covid, this Australian music legend livestreamed his shows on Facebook to earn an income. Then his account was hacked.

Investigators on scene after fire destroys country home
Fire investigators are at the scene of where a massive fire destroyed a large home west of Toowoomba in the early hours of Saturday morning.

School goes the distance for brave girl with life-threatening illness
St Joseph's Catholic Primary in Chinchilla took to their sports fields to help one of their classmates who is battling a debilitating illness she was diagnosed with as a baby.

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Chinchilla teen arrested after dramatic police chase

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News > Queensland > Chinchilla

GrainGrowers, National Heavy Vehicle Regulator host free legal workshop in Condamine for farmers

Farmers are urged to attend a free Condamine workshop explaining Chain of Responsibility laws to ensure produce is transported safely, as the industry accounts for 26 per cent of the nation's work fatalities.

Pela McEachern [Follow](#)

 less than 2 min read · August 23, 2021 - 4:50PM [Chinchilla News](#)

 0 comments



FREE LEGAL ADVICE- Peak grains representative body GrainGrowers has partnered with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to host free workshops in Condamine to help farmers better understand their role under Chain of Responsibility laws. Pic: Supplied

Western Downs farmers are being urged to attend a free Chain of Responsibility workshop to ensure produce is transported from paddock to plate as safely as possible, as the supply chain and logistics industry accounts for 26 per cent of the nation's work fatalities.

GrainGrowers has partnered with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator to host the free workshop in Condamine on September 1, to help farmers better understand their role under the laws.



WORKSHOP- Assistant Roads and Transport Minister Scott Bushholz encouraged all primary producers to sign up to the free Condamine workshop in September. Pic: Supplied

Assistant Roads and Transport Minister Scott Buchholz said the practical workshops were designed specifically for farmers to mitigate safety risks and encouraged all primary producers to attend.

"Farmers are an essential part of the supply chain, so it's important they understand their responsibilities to ensure they're operating safely, and in compliance with Chain of Responsibility laws," Mr Buchholz said.

"As we head into the harvest season, it's a timely opportunity for farmers to check their safety procedures and mitigate any risks associated with their transport task."

A GrainGrowers spokeswoman said that according to SafeWork Australia, the supply chain and logistics industry accounted for 26 per cent of national worker fatalities, meaning reducing the risks related to transport safety was critical.



FREE WORKSHOP: GrainGrowers General Manager of Policy & Advocacy Zachary Whale. Pic: GrainGrowers

GrainGrowers general manager of policy Zachary Whale said everyone who involved in any transport activity had a role to play.

"Whether you pack, load, consign, move, receive, or unload goods transported on Australia's roads, these laws apply to you," he said.

"To comply with the law you will need to know the risks of your transport activities and have business practices in place to control them."

National Heavy Vehicle Regulator CEO Sal Petrocetto said the number one priority was the safety of everyone in the heavy vehicle supply chain.

"Projects like the COR workshops for farmers help improve safety for the entire industry whether that's at the farm, in the warehouse or on the road."

Places are limited and registration essential for catering purposes, so individuals are encouraged to secure their spot [here](#).

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Gertie smashing the acres - Alisha Reading

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