



Wheat Growers' Action Group

MEDIA RELEASE

Wheat growers plan mass protest in Canberra

Wheat growers from around the country will attend a protest rally at Parliament House next week.

They're outraged at the arrogance of the Rudd Labor Government and the Liberal Party in ramming through new wheat marketing legislation that threatens their future.

The Wheat Growers' Action Group (WGAG) and the NSW Farmers' Association will demand an explanation at the rally **next Monday (16th June)**.

"We'll be calling on the Rudd Government and the Liberal Party to explain why they are taking away a proven and effective National Pool marketing system and replacing it with one that has **no** marketing structure whatsoever. Farmers cannot afford to sow a crop if they can't market it," the WGAG chairman, Peter Cannon, said.

"It also removes all associated benefits like Golden rewards and a National Pool freight rate advantage which hardworking growers rely on."

Mr Cannon says the legislation will see quality standards currently set by the National Pool operator replaced by NACMA* standards that are set by traders, not growers.

"It also removes all premiums for quality and there'll be less tolerance for wheat grades. This means there's a higher risk grain will be downgraded to a lower price than under the current National Pool system."

The rally will kick off at 10.30am from old Parliament House.

"We're urging all growers to make an all out effort to attend regardless of the demands on the farm for that day. **This is the last chance to get the message to government - NOT to destroy our industry**," Mr Cannon said.

"A day spent away from work may well secure a more profitable future for your family farm. All farmers need to oppose the new wheat Legislation now."

WGAG has a petition opposing the Wheat Export Marketing Legislation – go to its website: www.concernedwheatgrowers.com

**Contact: Peter Cannon 0428 697 634 / 02 6869 7634 or Mark Hoskinson 02 6972 6224
NSW Farmers 1300 794 000 / www.nswfarmers.org.au**

(*NACMA – National Agricultural Commodities Marketing Association).

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