

MEDIA RELEASE

EMERALD POOLS MOSTLY STEADY AS MARKETS TAKE A BREATH

08 December Melbourne: In its regular update of estimated pool returns leading independent commodity pool manager, Emerald, held its benchmark APW wheat pool return steady today at \$262 FOB. Canola and barley pool returns were also held steady.

There were some minor adjustments to wheat grades other than APW reflecting current market conditions. Of particular note was a lift in the AGP1 FOB return which was up \$6 per metric tonne to \$252 FOB. Emerald's oat pools in Western Australia were also significantly higher.

Emerald Executive Director Mike Chaseling said "We have not received any greater clarity this week on what the outcome of changes for wheat marketing are going to be. This process could lead to significant short term change or little change, it is too early to say. In the meantime, and whilst we monitor the outcome in Canberra, our focus is on marketing the grain we have received on the basis of what we do know. That is, we will focus on achieving domestic premiums and servicing the buoyant container market. Our returns are not predicated on us or other participants receiving a bulk export permit for wheat."

"Given the unprecedented volume of grain in warehouse this year, and being mindful of the impact this is having on growers' cashflows, we plan to do all we can to speed the flow of funds into growers' accounts. For deliveries made between now and the 31st December we have shortened our payment terms and will make all efforts to get cleared funds in a growers bank account 7-10 days after delivery."

Emerald indicated that domestic and international markets are taking a breather for now, reflecting harvest pressure in Australia and weak technical signals in US futures markets. In the longer term the market fundamentals remain positive for the grain complex globally, and Australia's drought driven market still has a long way to travel.

Mr Chaseling indicated "We can be certain of considerable market volatility and a wider range of marketing opportunities looking forward. If alternative pathways to export are allowed, particularly for wheat out of the WA, we believe this will have a positive impact on Australian upcountry values generally."

On the basis of the publicly available information, regarding the volume of grain received into the Western Australian bulk handling system and what has been warehoused to date, we estimate Emerald now accounts for 10% of the Western Australian wheat crop that has been priced or transferred to a marketer. We have received this support from our customers, Australian farmers, because of the range of additional benefits Emerald's pools deliver over and above highly competitive returns.

ENDS.....

A full summary of Emerald's December pool update is detailed below or can be viewed by visiting the company's web site – www.emerald-group.com.au. Emerald's quality payment scales are also listed on the company web site.

Media Contact

Please contact Nicole Haddow on 03 98824835.

Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd 2006/07 Season Estimated Pool Returns as at December 08 2006

Wheat Grade	FOB Pool Return Estimate	Protein	Screenings	Moisture	Payments for quality
APH	\$277.50	13.0%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
APHP	\$282.50	13.0%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
AH	\$266.00	11.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
AHP	\$271.00	11.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
APW	\$262.00	10.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
APWT	\$266.00	10.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
ASW	\$255.00	10.0%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
ASWN	\$258.00	10.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
APN	\$268.00	10.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
AUH	\$262.00	11.5%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
AGP	\$252.00	10.0%	5.0%	12.5%	YES
FEED	\$234.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	FLAT PRICE

Commodity	Grade	FOB Pool Return Estimate	Zone*	Payments for quality
Canola	CAN1	\$500.00	Western Aust & WSA	Full bonifications
Canola	CAN1	\$520.00	East Coast & SA	Full bonifications
Barley	MALT	\$315.00	West Coast	FLAT
Barley	MALT	\$380.00	East Coast	FLAT
Barley	MALT	\$310.00	South Australia	FLAT
Barley	FEED	\$265.00	West Coast	FLAT
Barley	FEED	\$340.00	East Coast	FLAT
Barley	FEED	\$260.00	South Australia	FLAT
Lupins	Lupins 1	\$295.00	West Coast	FLAT
Oats	Milling	\$310.00	West Coast	FLAT
Oats	Feed	\$300.00	West Coast	FLAT

*Zone: West Coast refers to all WA port zones and all SA port zones west of Adelaide zone (for canola). East Coast refers to all port zones in Queensland, NSW and Victoria. Please note barley pools are now quoted specifically in South Australia for Malt and Feed barley.

Coming Soon: Look out for the new Emerald Pool Calculator, which will be loaded onto the Emerald web site very soon: www.emerald-group.com.au

Note: Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd is a leading commodity management, investment and advisory company that provides innovative agricultural commodity risk management, investment and advisory products to assist Australian grain producers and corporate agribusiness enhance returns. Emerald holds a current Australian Financial Services License.