

31 January 2012

Emerald 2011/12 canola pool closing 31 January

Emerald WA will close its 2011/12 season canola pool at 5pm on Tuesday 31 January.

Emerald General Manager - West Coast Region, Murray de Jong, said with the harvest now complete Emerald WA needed to determine the full tonnage involved in its marketing program, as its canola pool has a relatively short cycle through to final payment in October.

He said Emerald WA's other grain pools are still open, however could also close with little or no notice should circumstances dictate.

"We are at the stage of the year when marketing plans are rapidly advancing, both for growers and for businesses like ours," Mr de Jong said.

"Our wheat, barley and lupin pools are open at this stage however I would encourage any grower considering delivery to contact any of our merchants promptly, as our pools may close with little or no warning.

"We are about maximising performance for growers utilising our pools, and that means closing off at optimum time for the marketing program, so that is what we will do"," Mr de Jong said.

For further information on Emerald's pool returns or distributions call 1300 880 432 or visit www.emeraldwa.com.au

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Background information

Emerald Group is one of Australia's leading grain marketing companies, offering its grower customers a range of pool and fixed price products to assist them maximise returns and manage grain market risks.

Emerald's unique business model includes commercial joint venture partnerships with grower organisations that assist these groups to directly influence both grower marketing options and grower incomes. These JVs include *SQP Grain* with Southern Quality Produce Co-operative in Victoria, *Emerald WA* with FREE Eyre on Eyre Peninsula in South Australia and *Southern Ag Grain* with Southern Ag Venture in southern New South Wales. Emerald operates in its own name in Western Australia and also has a strong alliance with WAFarmers, while in Queensland it operates as *Philp Brodie Grains* and in eastern South Australia as *Sturt Grain*.

Emerald is an Australian business founded in 2004. Originally fully owned by the directors and staff of the company, it now includes amongst its shareholders Sumitomo Corporation, which has offices in 66 countries. The alliance with Sumitomo has provided Emerald with unrivalled access to a range of grain processors throughout the world, particularly into rapidly growing markets in East and South Asia. During the 2010/11 harvest Emerald received 3.4 million tonnes of grains and oilseeds directly from Australian grain growers, with turnover of A\$1.2 billion.