



Media statement

Emerald Chairman Alan Winney is Agribusiness Leader of the Year

29 October 2010 Emerald Group Chairman – Alan Winney – has been named Australia’s Agribusiness Leader of the Year. Mr. Winney won the top award at the NAB Agribusiness Awards for Excellence held at the Crown Palladium in Melbourne last night.

Mr. Winney was declared the winner against a strong field of finalists. He said that “He was honoured to be selected as the NAB Agribusiness Leader of the Year, given the high profile of previous winners of the award including Dick Pratt, Don McGauchie and Doug Rathbone.”

He said that “I am very proud of Emerald’s achievements over the past 6 years including its growth to be the 5th largest grain company in Australia, measured by the acquisition of 2.8 million tonnes of grain from Australian farmers over the last harvest. As a group we have experienced exceptional growth from a start up position and this has been achieved by the substantial efforts of a broad range of employees. I am very pleased that the success of Emerald has contributed to me individually being recognised in the wider agribusiness sphere.”

Emerald is Australia’s 78th largest private company and earlier this year it was awarded the BRW/ANZ Private Business of the Year for Regional Australia. Mr Winney said “These awards are a huge credit to the whole team and highlights the sustainability of the partnership structure that Emerald forms with Australian farmers. The deregulation of the wheat industry has meant substantial change for many Australian farmers and we have pleased to work closely with them during this period.”

“ Key issues for Emerald in the years ahead include strong vigilance needed on access to essential storage, the need for maintenance of rail capability and the ongoing globalisation and consolidation of the Australian Food and Agribusiness sector.” concluded Mr. Winney.

Mr. Winney has been the Chairman of Emerald since he founded the business in 2004. He retains a significant ownership stake in the company. In addition to his role at Emerald, Mr. Winney is also Chairman of Queensland Sugar Limited (QSL), a Director of the Australian Sugar industry Alliance and Chairman of Seashift Properties.

He has been actively involved with agribusiness sector for over 35 years including non executive Director roles at United Farmers Co-operative, Netco Co-operative, Pulse Australia and Woolchain Holdings. He held Managing Director or senior management roles at Elders IXL, Louis Dreyfus, AWB and the Al Ghurair group prior to his NED roles. He is also formerly Vice President of the Australian Grain Exporters Association and a director of the Agribusiness Association of Australia.

For further information on Emerald visit www.emerald-group.com.au.

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For further media information:

Shannon D’Arcy, Marketing Communications Advisor
(03) 9274 8888 or 0401 795 388
sdarcy@emerald-group.com.au

Background information

Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd is a leading Australian grain marketing company operating via 13 offices across all Australian states and offering a range of grain marketing products to assist grower customers maximise returns and manage grain market risks. Emerald offers a range of pool, fixed price and tailored hedging products to a national grain grower customer base.

Emerald's unique business model includes commercial partnerships with grower organisations that assist these local communities take greater control and directly benefit from grain market liberalisation. It operates with various brand names via these partnerships including In Victoria in a joint venture, SQP Pty Ltd, with grower group Southern Quality Produce Co-operative. On the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia Emerald has a joint venture, EP Grain, with farmer owned company FREE Eyre Ltd. Southern Ag Grain (SAG) is a joint venture, between grower owned Southern Agventure (SAV) and Emerald, it services the grain growers of southern NSW.

In Western Australia Emerald operates in its own name and is one of the major marketers in that state. It has strong alliances have also been formed with WA Farmers and Ravensdown United Farmers Co-operative. Philp Brodie Grains now operates as a subsidiary of Emerald and from its Toowoomba base services the southern and central Queensland grain growing regions.