

## Media statement

1 June 2010

### Emerald opens up new export opportunities to Albany growers

The first Emerald shipment of noodle wheat (and the first shipment ever) to the lucrative Japanese market from Albany was loaded for export to Japan early this week.

Emerald's WA General Manager Rob Proud said it was a significant shipment for us and Albany region growers, with noodle wheat being accepted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Japan (MAFF) from the Albany port.

"It's a highly significant day for wheat growers from Albany and for the port of Albany. Traditionally all noodle wheat exports for Japan have been from Kwinana to meet MAFF requirements, which has limited export opportunities for noodle wheat growers in the south. We are pleased that our strong relationship with Sumitomo has allowed us to work with MAFF enabling us to open the Albany region to noodle wheat exports to Japan.

It is a great outcome for growers, and also beneficial to the entire market. We expect many more shipments of noodle wheat out of the Albany port in the future, particularly as premiums for noodle wheat have come back into the market" concluded Rob.

Currently up to 9 million tones of exportable wheat will be sourced from Western Australia. The Albany port handles a variety of goods that are imported and exported through the harbour. Products most commonly exported through the port are woodchips, wheat, silica sand, barley, canola and oats.

For further information on Emerald's prices, pool returns or distributions call 1300 880 432 or visit [www.emerald-group.com.au](http://www.emerald-group.com.au)

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#### Background information

Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd is one of Australia's leading grain marketing companies 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 grower customer base.

Emerald's unique business model includes commercial partnerships with grower organisations that assist them in taking greater control and directly benefiting from grain market liberalisation. These include in the western and Wimmera districts of Victoria a joint venture 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. In Southern NSW, Southern Ag Grain is a Joint Venture between Emerald and the farmer owned company Southern Ag Venture. In Western Australia, Emerald has strong alliances with WAFarmers and Ravensdown United Farmer Co-operative.