



## PRESS RELEASE

### WA Noodle Industry in for the Long Haul

**Noodle Wheat** Last spring the report “Western Australia’s Noodle Wheat Industry: Current Status and Future Challenges” by the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre for the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia was released at three Western Australian field days in conjunction with the ‘oodles of noodles’ project run by 2015 WA Rural Women’s Award winner and Intergrain CEO Tress Walmsley.

As a follow up to the release of the report “Western Australia’s Noodle Wheat Industry: Current Status and Future Challenges” GIWA called for industry feedback via submissions on the report from interested parties. These responses were considered by the GIWA Wheat Council and contained the following key messages:

- That the differentiated noodle wheat segment for Japan and Korea is well supported by the Western Australian grain industry
- That security of supply is a very high priority to these two markets
- That growing noodle varieties is a substantial challenge as farmers have to balance price and agronomic risk and reward when compared with other options like APW and AH grain varieties
- That there are difficulties faced at both ends of the noodle wheat value chain when a deregulated Australian market sells wheat to a regulated Japanese buyer.

The GIWA Wheat Council and broader industry will continue working to identify opportunities that support the production of noodle wheat in Western Australia and consider that at this stage, market intervention in any form is not considered necessary.

Dr Richard Williams, Chair of the GIWA Wheat Council said:

“For several years now we have been tracking the supply situation of noodle wheat in Western Australia as closely as possible given the publicly available data. GIWA considers that the noodle wheat industry in Western Australia is well aware of the challenges in adopting superior yielding varieties that both meet market demand and perform well for growers.

With the growing number of reports emerging this season that the new InterGrain noodle variety Zen is showing promise in normal cropping rotations, as opposed to seed bulk up, we want to reinforce that on the important issue of supply security, things are looking good for the future of noodle wheat in Western Australia. We’re also looking forward to seeing how the next generation InterGrain noodle wheat variety Ninja (IGW8027) stacks up in the paddock next year.”

**Variety Rationalisation** The GIWA Wheat Council monitors new variety development and variety rationalisation regularly and is currently working in conjunction with Wheat Quality Australia to review the eligibility of the noodle variety mainstay Calingiri. This is part of WQA’s standard processes (10 years + varieties are regularly reviewed) to ensure that older wheat varieties continue to meet market requirements.

The review of Calingiri by Wheat Quality Australia is ongoing with an aim to reach a decision in mid-2017. More information will be available in the forthcoming 2016 Wheat Quality Australia Master Varietal List which will be published by WQA at the beginning of September.

**APW** Other relevant noodles news is that the industry continues to work on the best APW wheat to be used in blending for the Japanese market with APW2 still in use for the 2016/2017 harvest. The GIWA Wheat Council have acknowledged that industry intends to transition from the segregation of both APW2 and APW1 in the storage and handling system, to APW1 only from the 2017-2018 season onwards. Industry is under discussion with the Japanese flour milling sector on measures to maintain the current quality of ASW blend for the 2017-2018 season onwards.

For further information regarding the Australian Export Grain Innovation Centre and Grain Industry Association of Western Australia Inc report “Western Australia’s Noodle Wheat Industry: Current Status and Future Challenges” please visit [www.giwa.org.au/wheat-council](http://www.giwa.org.au/wheat-council)

**Media:**

Dr Richard Williams, Chair, GIWA Wheat Council 0438 927 868 [richard@groiq.com](mailto:richard@groiq.com)

Larissa Taylor, CEO GIWA 0413 076 665 [ltaylor@giwa.org.au](mailto:ltaylor@giwa.org.au)



*Pictured: Larisa Cato, Wheat Quality & Technical Markets Manager Australian Export Grains Innovation Centre (AEGIC) and Dr Richard Williams, Chair, GIWA Wheat Council*