



***Careers in Grain* Launches To Boost Workforce Capacity In WA Grains Industry**

Minister For Regional Development; Agriculture And Food, Hon Alannah
Mactiernan MLC, Shows Support For The Initiative

Wednesday May 31, 2017 – Careers In Grain last night launched its website and branding at an event held at The Flour Factory, Perth, which was attended by members of industry, educational institutions, government, tertiary students and media. Formerly known as the AGI Capacity Building project, the initiative aims to improve access to job-ready and skilled people for the grains industry in Western Australia.

In an address to the audience, Agriculture and Food Minister Alannah MacTiernan showed support for the initiative, saying many grain growers are small businesses, which will be supported through this initiative.

“Grain is the big hitter from the agriculture sector in WA... and the demand for a more skilled, smarter workforce is increasing,” she said. “This government will deliver support for small businesses, which will drive much needed employment and economic prosperity, particularly in the regions, where the high-tech agriculture sector will be encouraged to grow.”

While there are currently 6 jobs for every student of agriculture studies, the grains industry clearly recognises the need for people with backgrounds in engineering, arts, data sciences, research, commerce and law, among many other disciplines. The remit of Careers in Grain is to promote the wealth of exciting, high-tech and rewarding jobs in the WA grains industry and to put them at the forefront of people’s minds, particularly among those people who may not traditionally consider a career in agriculture.

“Our website will serve as a hub that will not only endorse the variety of careers available in the Western Australian grains industry, but the importance of these careers and what their role is. In particular, tertiary and VET students, will be able to understand what is involved in these career pathways, what career progression is available, and what qualifications will help aid career progression, along with where these qualifications can be obtained,” said Dr Manjusha Thorpe, the Executive Officer of Careers in Grain. “It is certainly a precious resource we’ve never had before.”

Dr Andrew Crane, CEO, CBH Group and Chair of the project, said *Careers in Grain* is supported by the four key pillars of the grain industry; government, academia, growers and business, and all have an interest in attracting and retaining the best and brightest to every level of the grain supply chain, from paddock to processor.

“Speaking from the perspective of businesses, it is essential that we attract and retain the very best employees to our organisations,” said Dr Crane. “Employers are the largest beneficiary of the *Careers in Grain* initiatives, and we all need to continue to play our part in encouraging people to enter the grains industry and our grower communities.”

The funders of the project include Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC), Department of Agriculture and Food WA, CBH Group, Murdoch University, Curtin University, the CBH Grower’s Advisory Council, Rabobank, Emerald Grain, the University of Western Australia and Muresk Institute. The project is hosted by the Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA).

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Hi-Res imagery available

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