

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **‘Bilby’ Oat Variety SARDI 06204-16 – Milling Accreditation Oat1**

**21 February 2019**

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#### **GIWA Oat Council: “Bilby” Oat Variety Accredited as OAT1**

In a January 2019 commercial milling trial by Quaker Oats on behalf of the GIWA Oat Council, the recently released SARDI oat variety 06204-16 Bilby met industry requirements in terms of physical milling characteristics and nutritional  $\beta$ -glucan content and was classified as OAT1 milling grade.

Ash Wiese, Narrogin grower and GIWA Oat Council Chair commented:

“It’s important that Western Australia maintain its reputation for high quality oats, and Bilby brings another level of quality with its high  $\beta$ -glucan levels.”

“Bilby meets all of our requirements for quality, yield, milling performance and sensory testing.”

“It is now up to farmers and the market to decide if this variety has a fit in our cropping system.”

“It is encouraging to see that our breeders have been able to achieve increased  $\beta$ -glucan without compromising on other quality traits.”

Bilby has been bred as a dwarf, mid-season, medium to high rainfall variety. With higher yield potential, higher  $\beta$ -glucan, a 1000 grain weight and reasonable physical grain qualities, Bilby is expected to provide options for Australian east coast growers as a potential replacement to Matika, and is expected to find a niche fit in Western Australia.

Dr Pamela Zwer, Principal Oat Breeder at SARDI’s National Oat Breeding Program says:

“Bilby yields slightly lower than Bannister in Western Australia, but the important thing is that we’re making headway in combining yield potential with nutritional benefits.

We’re looking to the future by developing a new core breeding program that we hope will enable faster and greater genetic gain: two of the traits we are looking at are higher yield potential and greater  $\beta$ -glucan.”

For comparison of Bilby's yield performance against other oat varieties across states please refer to the National Oat Breeding Program's Oat Newsletter 2018, page 30:

[http://pir.sa.gov.au/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0018/334332/SARDI\\_Oat\\_Newsletter\\_2018.pdf](http://pir.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/334332/SARDI_Oat_Newsletter_2018.pdf)

Bilby seed is available through Heritage Seeds <https://www.heritage-seeds.com.au/>

Georgie Troup, Oat Research Agronomist at the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development in Western Australia, will be presenting the latest information on Bilby and oat and hay research next Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 9.00am at the GRDC Research Updates Perth at Crown, Burswood, ref <http://www.giwa.org.au/2019researchupdates>

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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