



NATIONAL GROWER REGISTER

What is the NGR?

Two of Australia's leading grain companies have joined forces to form the National Grower Register (NGR) – a centralised, national registration system which will give growers access to a multitude of grain handling and marketing services across Australia using a single identity card.

The NGR is the culmination of a historical co-operative alliance between ABB and GrainCorp Operations Limited. These companies service 85% of Australia's grain growers and own 95% of the bulk handling facilities in the Eastern and Southern states of Australia.

At this stage WA will not be adopting the NGR card as a replacement for their existing single-card system. This is due to the impending merger between CBH Limited and The Grains Pool in WA and the decision to focus on consolidating grower and customer relationships in the short to medium term.

More than 50,000 growers currently hold identification cards which become their passports during harvest, but until now there has been no uniform system for registration.

In the past, many growers have had to use multiple registration cards when delivering grain to marketers or bulk handlers.

The aim of the new system is to make registration simpler and processing of deliveries and information transfer between organisations much more efficient for growers, handlers and marketers.

This is not a new idea. However, it has taken considerable effort and perseverance to put aside state boundaries and competitive pressures to develop and implement a unified registration system. NGR has been developed to streamline procedures at the depot or local silo no matter where in Australia a grower chooses to deliver. A unified national system provides that sort of flexibility.

Your harvest passport

The growth of the Australian grain industry and increased availability of delivery options has meant that until now growers have had to register with each organisation with which they do business. Keeping track of the various cards can be difficult, especially at harvest time when everyone is working against the clock to strip their crops, decide who they are going to sell to, or where they will store their grain.

The NGR card can be used at any of the participating companies' sites throughout Australia. This is a major benefit for growers who cross state borders to sell their grain. In addition, NGR is inviting all other grain handling and marketing organisations to participate in the national system.



Easy to register

Over the next few months, grain growers and their sharefarmers who have been delivering grain through any of the three organisations that have come together to form NGR, will receive a “registration form” containing personal and business details such as names, addresses, ABNs and preferred methods of payments. Individuals receiving the forms will be asked check the details, correct the information if and where necessary, and return the form to NGR. The information will then be processed and cards posted to each registered user.

Growers will have the ability to delete old registrations, create new ones, join some together (known as supercession) and update existing arrangements. There will also be the ability to personalise your card with an identifying name, making it easier to recognise what property or sharefarming arrangement the card relates to. The key to the system will be the unique numbering across Australia.

Each registration with NGR will receive three copies of the card for distribution as required. Additional copies of the cards will be available free in the first year of operation. Thereafter there may be an additional nominal fee.

There will be no cost to farmers to register with NGR. Organisations wanting to access data from within the system will be asked to pay a nominal joining fee and annual fees on the basis of the number of growers they are linked to. The three founding companies will also be paying the joining and annual fees as Registered Parties.

Faster delivery, faster information transfer, improved efficiency

NGR will have details of registered growers' and sharefarmers' names and addresses, ABN's and preferred methods of payments, enabling deliveries to be processed quickly and accurately and then forwarded to grain handlers and marketers to process payments.

Secure, versatile and accurate technology

Unlike many of the current identification cards, NGR will utilise both bar code and magnetic strip technology to ensure the card is compatible with all systems already in use at grain depots. Where needed, NGR cards can be manually processed.

NGR is a confidential system

NGR recognises that growers expect that their transactions with one trader will not be disclosed to any other company.

Although NGR's partner companies have developed a unified registration system, ALL transactions with individual companies will be treated with the utmost confidentiality. NGR will not on-sell any information to outside organisations at any point without express permission by involved parties. Growers' details will only be passed on to those organisations they are conducting business with.



NGR Information Line and website

To help growers find out more about the NGR system toll-free information line and a website have been established. NGR FreeCall 1800 556 630 is an information service available from 8am to 6pm EST 5 days a week (with an extended service during harvest). Advice on how to register and how to use the card will be available through the call centre number and on the website www.ngr.com.au.