

**Minutes  
CQ RAC Meeting  
held 13<sup>th</sup> August 2008  
at the QDPIF Building Emerald  
Commencing 9.30 am**

**1. Opening, Welcome by Chairman**

The Chairmen opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests.

**2. Attendance**

A Farquharson (Chair)	N Johansen	<b>Nominees:</b>
M Ballentine	G Spackman	QDPIF: D Poulsen
R Daniels	R Routley	CSIRO: S Chapman
P Durkin	D Jordan	GRDC: J Sheppard
S Eden	K McCosker	GRFL: D Lund

J Obst (RAC Coordinator)

Guests: D Howard (grain grower) A Bate (grain grower) J Harvey (GRDC) J Clark (GRDC) A Bedggood (NVT) J Reddy (grain grower)

**3. Apologies**

L Fairweather, S Moran, D Midmore, K Heit, P Reading (GRDC) **Accepted**

The Coordinator reported that S Sullivan is no longer engaged in grain growers and has resigned from the committee.

**4. Confirmation of Agenda**

**Confirmed**

**5. Confirmation of Minutes (9<sup>th</sup> March 2008)**

**Confirmed**

**6. Business from Minutes**

6.1 Letter to / from D Hamilton re Wheat Varieties Guide Queensland  
It was agreed that this matter would be dealt with later in the meeting.

6.2 Finalisation of the PIP 2008

The Coordinator reported that this 2008 report has been further upgraded to improve its standing as an important grain industry reference document for regional Priority Issues. Hard copies have been sent to all RAC members and to RDE Agencies. Copies were mailed to 300 active Queensland grain growers. The report has been posted on the GRFL Website and the report linked to approx 250 researchers and agronomists.

6.3 Independent Sorghum Midge Rating Scheme: It was reported that GRFL has made an application to GRDC seeking \$30000 per year for 3 years from GRDC to ensure the continuation of this independent uniform sorghum midge resistance rating scheme. The submission was made on the basis of a 50/50 grower/commercial seed company funding initiative. 3 sorghum seed companies have agreed to contribute. QDPIF, which has funded the scheme for a number of years, has indicated it requires full external funding of it to continue with the scheme.

**7. Correspondence and Business (not covered elsewhere on agenda)**

7.1 QDPIF Plant Science (Delivery) Business Plan 2008-2013. Noted

7.2 Sorghum Staygreen uptake by Commercial Seed Companies: Letters to/from seed companies Noted.

7.3 Wheat Seed Coleoptile Length. Letters to/from seed companies Noted.

**8. RAC Members to Report**

Following is a sample of comments made by members:

- Feather Top Rhodes is major concern. Conventional farming hasn't reduced problem.
- A lot of wheat deep planted
- Some frost damage on chick peas.
- Some growers recorded highest average sorghum yields. Some suffered flood damage.
- Winter crops south of Emerald doing ok. Crops north of Emerald not as good. A lot of late crop.
- N deficiency will be showing up.
- 20 to 25% of winter crop is chick pea.
- Mice active in parts of Dawson Callide. Some early wheat close to harvest.
- Mice active on Central Highlands with some baiting occurring.
- Yellow Leaf Spot showing up. Considerable pig damage occurring.
- Strong interest by Dawson Callide graziers to revert some areas to grain while grain prices are high.
- Last season mung beans yielded ok despite high temperatures.
- Some good levels of Staygreen appear to be coming through in new commercial sorghum varieties.
- Sorghum ergot still an issue requiring a focus.
- Liquid fertilisers (P) showing some signs of benefits although there is no clear science behind it.
- Strong interest by growers in liquid fertiliser.
- Fertiliser becoming a significant input cost and need to work out the best way to apply it.
- Wheat coleoptile length and good planting equipment essential for deep planting.
- Wheat is showing up as being a vital rotation crop of successful sorghum production.
- April is preferred month for planting wheat so need a long coleoptile with longer season maturity.
- Is there scope for using regulators to control wheat growth. Little value past booting stage.
- Does GRDC invest in machinery research or do they leave R&D to the commercial market.

9. **GRDC NVT** (Discussion Paper provide)

The Chairman invited Messer Harvey, Clark and Bedggood to join the meeting to discuss NVT. The Chairman said that wheat was an important crop in Central Queensland cropping production systems and that the RAC appreciated the opportunity to build good lines of communication between growers and NVT. Generally the region has not been happy with NVT performance to date.

Individual members then presented their concerns regarding their experiences with NVT. These related to both the regional field trials and the website.

A Bedggood gave a presentation on a number of new initiatives that are currently underway with NVT which will address a number of the RAC members concerns.  
Mr Clark reported the GRDC has announced a review of NVT and that all interested persons are invited to submit their concerns to this review. A customer survey form is available on the GRDC Website. He said that GRDC will engage with QDPIF to ensure growers concerns with disease ratings are taken into account. Discussions will take place on how best to capture and provide these ratings.  
Mr Harvey made a presentation of the changing face of Australian wheat breeding.

The Chairman thanked Messrs Harvey, Clark and Bedggood for their attendances.

10. **RAC Nominees to Report**

10.1 QDPI: D Poulsen reported the following:

- P Grieve acting as General Manager Plant Science (Delivery) in place of D Hamilton.
- 3 new wheat varieties namely Stampede, Bounty and Kidman released and commercialised through Crop Care (Stampede & Bounty) and Austgrains (Kidman).
- Negotiating with GRDC on wheat pre-breeding initiative. Focusing on traits adapting to climate change – drought, feed and diseases.
- QDPIF will be looking to strengthening its linkages with other research agencies including CSIRO.
- QDPIF is leading the national research initiative on frost damage in wheat.
- QDPIF negotiating trial support with AGT.
- A new barley variety along the line of Grouse released. Looks promising in Central Queensland.
- Sorghum pre-breeding going from strength to strength with increasing number of lines licensed to the private breeding programs.
- Maize breeding program being re-focused and re-located to Hermitage. While there will continue to be a tropical breeding focus there will also be a focus on developing germplasm for dry production regions.
- 2 New mung bean varieties released namely Crystal and Satin II
- New desi chick pea variety selected to replace Moti in CQ.
- QDPIF will produce QWVG in 2009 and monitor the performance of NVT to determine the future of the guide.
- QDPIF will discuss with GRDC how best robust disease ratings can be maintained for wheat varieties. Very confident that QDPIF will continue to be involved in disease ratings.
- QDPIF will not be conducting wheat yield trials and will rely on NVT for this data.
- QDPIF is implementing a *Fresh Approach* to doing business. Part of this will be about student skilling. Australian Agricultural Colleges (AACCs) have been transferred into QDPIF.
- A consultant has been appointed to report on options for future research facilities for Northern Queensland.
- Science/ Industry Consultative Groups are being formed to look at options for research facilities in Central and Southern Queensland. AgForce and GRFL are involved.
- Any realised funds from existing facilities sales can be re-invested in new facilities.
- Looking at a plant science 'centre of excellence' possibly in southern Queensland.
- Focus will be on getting the 'right people' in the 'right places' rather than on bricks and mortar.

10.2 CSIRO: Dr S Chapman reported the following:

- 2 major northern wheat breeding projects finishing.
- CSIRO PI continues Fusarium research.
- CSIRO investing in climate change and agricultural sustainability research.

It was agreed that Dr Chapman would collaborate with Mr Routley regarding the planting of some long coleoptile wheat varieties next season.

11. **General Business**

Nil

12. **Election of Chairman**

Defer to next meeting.

13. **Next Meeting**

- 13.1 Date: March 2009. Date still to be finalised
- 13.2 Venue: to be finalised.
- 13.3 Invited Speakers: to be finalised.

14. **Closure**

Meeting closed at 3.30pm.