

# POLICY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK



Golden Tonnes - Mindy Hussey (QLD)

# OVERVIEW

**GrainGrowers' purpose is to empower Australian grain growers through engagement, policy and capacity building, with a vision of thriving Australian growers in vibrant communities.**

GrainGrowers works to advocate rigorous, transparent, and evidence-based policy positions for grain growers across Australia. Through the election of the National Policy Group (NPG) and the Policy Development Framework, it is ensured that positions are researched and developed to protect, promote, and support Australian grain growers.

GrainGrowers' Constitution states that the company will promote the development of Australian agricultural resources by:

- representing the national interests of grain growers in Australia;
- developing and implementing policies aimed at cultivating a strong, innovative, profitable, globally competitive, and environmentally sustainable grain industry. These policies will be constructive, balanced and well researched;
- making representations to, and working with, governments consistently with its role of representing the Australian grain community;
- working with all sectors of the Australian grain industry where matters of common interest are concerned; and
- exercising good corporate governance in representing the interests of the Australian grain community.

## Policy Development Framework

GrainGrowers' Policy Development Framework is member-driven, which is fundamental for the success of a representative organisation. This is particularly important for the identification of issues and topics of concern, validating policy options and communicating outcomes and impacts. The Policy Development Framework includes opportunities for input and consultation directly from individual growers, such as Policy Surveys, direct grower interaction in each state and GrainGrowers' CULTIVATE Alumni Network.

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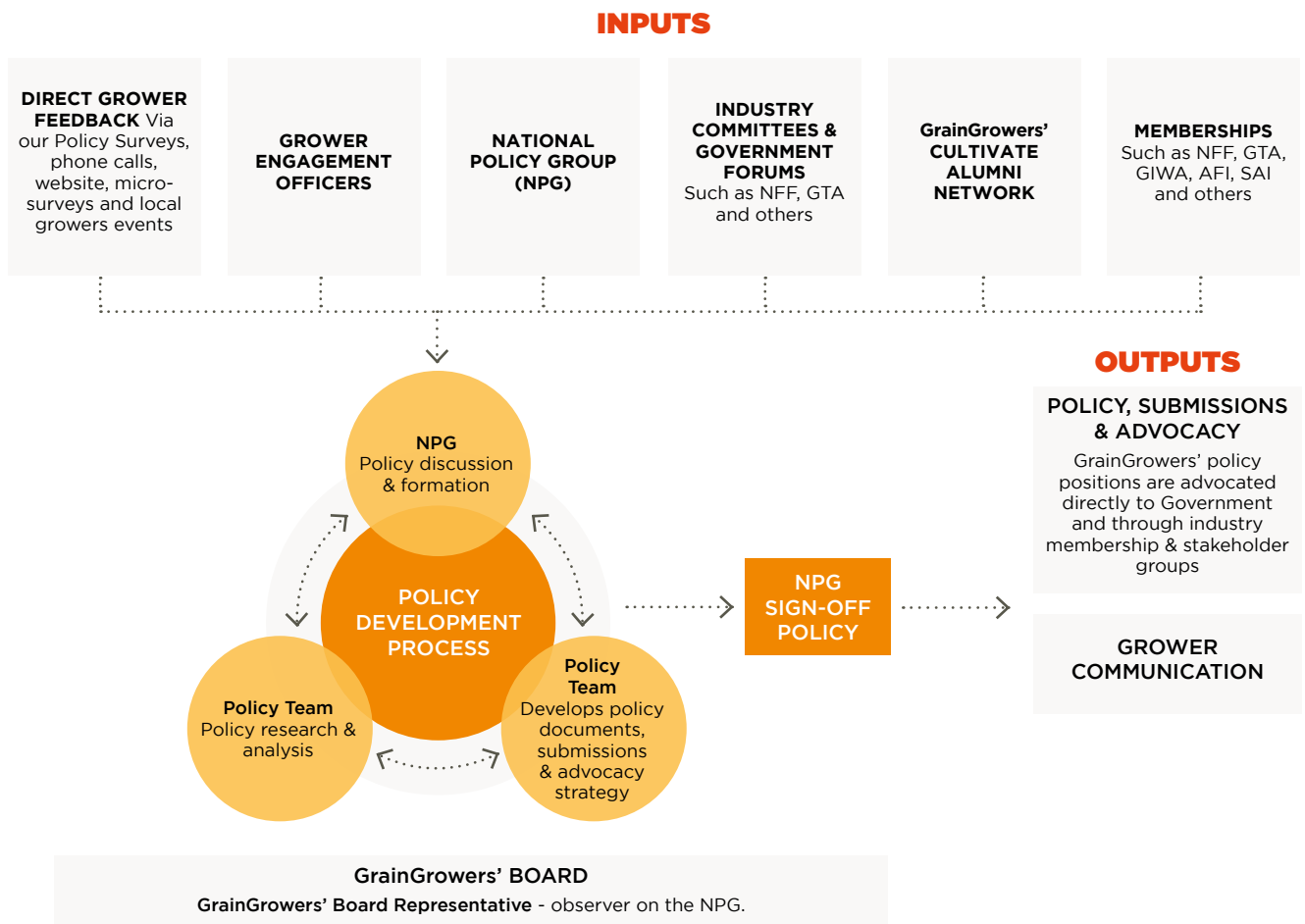
# POLICY DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The National Policy Group, with its elected grower representatives, is fundamental in identifying key policy priorities, reviewing and approving all of GrainGrowers' policy positions. It is also important that GrainGrowers remains engaged and informed across the entire grains value chain to ensure the organisation is mindful of holistic issues and challenges that may inform policy settings. This is achieved through membership and representation on various committees.

## The Framework ensures:

- tangible benefits are delivered to grain growers through robust policy formation and clear articulation and advocacy of policy positions; and
- stakeholders are aware of how GrainGrowers develops transparent, evidence-based policy for grain growers with appropriate input and consultation.

Underpinned by a principle of continuous improvement, the Framework is reviewed regularly and updated as needed.



# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A central feature of policy development is GrainGrowers' engagement with growers and key stakeholders. GrainGrowers is open, transparent, and accountable in the way it develops policy.

GrainGrowers believes in well-rounded stakeholder engagement which includes contributions from:

- Growers and grower groups
- Value chain organisations and companies
- Other advocacy organisations
- Decision makers and government
- Customers and community
- Researchers and analysts.

Stakeholders are individual grain growers, groups of growers, organisations, government departments, customers and community that affect and/or could be affected or influenced by GrainGrowers' activities, programs, policies, and advocacy.

GrainGrowers believes that an open and trusting environment is fundamental to good stakeholder engagement and increases the willingness to share information. Engaging a wide range of stakeholders ensures that the policy positions are rigorous, transparent and evidence-based.

The key guiding principles for stakeholder engagement are that GrainGrowers:

- values active stakeholder participation in policy development.
- will allocate its resources on the issues that impact the national spread of members and stakeholders and will continually strive to understand the concerns, views, needs and expectations of our members and the grains industry (including the positions of other advocacy organisations).
- will continually strive to understand the views and expectations of the community and consumers.
- will ensure that during engagement, the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and GrainGrowers are clearly articulated.
- will allow adequate time for consultation and engagement processes wherever possible.

- will provide information and supporting material during policy development that is well-researched, objective, and accessible.
- will acknowledge the use of stakeholders' inputs received through policy development.
- will engage our stakeholders in a manner that will improve respect and trust in GrainGrowers.

**Successful engagement with stakeholders during policy development depends on understanding why to engage, what to engage on, when to engage and who needs to be involved.**

## Grower Voices

Understanding the needs of growers and members is key to identifying issues early and the success of a well-formed policy position. Growers can provide feedback or raise issues with GrainGrowers through several means, some of these are outlined below.

GrainGrowers' collates policy issues and determines if they are a national policy priority or a specific state issue. If the issue proceeds to policy development or requires review of an existing policy, the Policy Development Process is then implemented. Where possible, new policy matters will be considered by the NPG as part of their regular meeting schedule.

## Policy Surveys and Micro-surveys

GrainGrowers regularly seeks grower feedback on policy issues affecting them, their business and community, as well as which policy matters growers would prefer the organisation works on in the short to medium term. As an ongoing data collection tool, micro-surveys are used to inform debate and to deep dive into a specific policy issue and understand its impacts on members.

# STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

## National Policy Group (NPG)

The NPG provides input into, review and approval of GrainGrowers' national policy positions developed on behalf of all Australian grain growers. The NPG members independently and solely represent grain growers' views. NPG members are GrainGrowers' members who equally represent the three GrainGrowers membership regions of Northern, Southern and Western, with up to five persons appointed from each region.

## Direct grower engagement

The GrainGrowers' team connect with growers in a variety of settings, ensuring that GrainGrowers' policy work is effectively communicated to growers. Grower issues and concerns are also channelled back and incorporated into the policy prioritisation and development process. This ensures that a diverse range of views are captured in order to further strengthen our policy development on behalf of the grains industry.

## Online presence

GrainGrowers harnesses a range of social media platforms to engage with growers. The organisation also has an active social listening presence, using digital technology to proactively flag up grains issues.

## CULTIVATE Alumni Network

In order to maintain strong connections with individuals who have taken part in key organisational initiatives (including current and former National Policy Group members, Board Directors, Australian Grain Leaders Program (AGLP) and OnBoard alumni), the CULTIVATE Alumni Network has been established. This enables individuals with a strong interest in policy to be a part of focus groups, committees and targeted surveys.

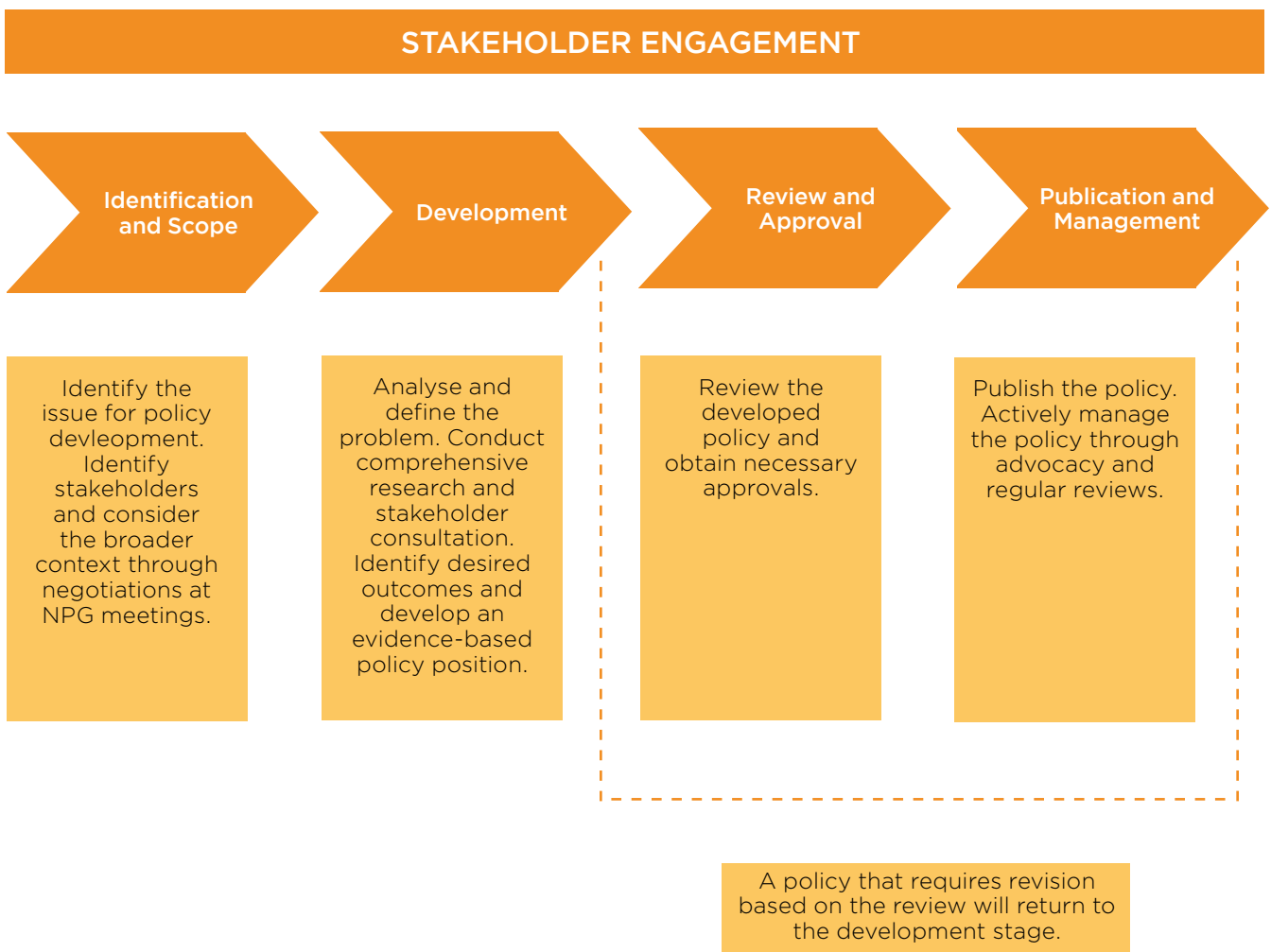


Sunrays - Kate Payne (NSW)

# POLICY DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

GrainGrowers' policy development focuses on being proactive and responsive to issues directly impacting grain growers.

The Policy Development Process provides a systemic way to develop policies that address concerns of the grains sector while securing opportunities for improved profitability and sustainability. The Policy Development Process involves multiple phases, including stakeholder engagement throughout, with the ultimate goal of having the policy implemented by key decision-makers.





Paddocks of Gold – Kate Payne (NSW)



**Stay in touch with GrainGrowers**

Please visit us online or email if you would like to hear more!



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