

# GRDC levy remains unchanged

The GRDC has assured Australian grain growers that the research levy rate is to remain at the current rate.

GRDC Chairman Mr Keith Perrett said there are no proposals to increase the GRDC levy rate.

"The GRDC is funded jointly by a levy collected from grain growers based on the value of grain they produce and contributions from the Australian Government," Keith said. "In fact the GRDC has recommended to the Grains Council of Australia (GCA) that the levy rates be continued in 2008-09 at the current levels of 0.99 per cent for 24 leviable grains and 0.693 per cent for maize.

"The research levy rate is set by legislation which can only be changed by the Australian Parliament. It has not changed over the past 12 years.

"The amount of levy revenue received each year depends on a number of risks, including drought or other weather events, pest or disease outbreaks, grain price fluctuations, the Australian dollar, the exchange rate and significant shifts away from grains in the farm business mix.

"GRDC is very much aware of the difficult production circumstances growers have faced over the past few years.

"The GRDC has carefully managed its reserves during the current drought to maintain research expenditure, implementing its new strategic R&D plan to deliver value to grain growers," Keith said.

The GRDC is a statutory authority es-

tablished to plan and invest in R&D for the Australian grains industry. Its primary objective is to support effective competition by Australian grain growers in global grain markets, through enhanced profitability and sustainability.

For more information contact Kylie Paulsen on 02 6166 4500 or 0428 864 934 or [www.grdc.com.au](http://www.grdc.com.au)



GRDC Chairman Keith Perrett. (PHOTO: Brad Collis)

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