

2 October 2019

## **GrainCorp Operations Ltd Convicted of Breaching its Environment Protection Licence and Ordered to Pay \$40,200**

GrainCorp Operations Limited (“GrainCorp”), a wholly owned subsidiary of GrainCorp Limited, has been convicted and been ordered to pay to the Environmental Trust the sum of \$40,200 by the Land and Environment Court of NSW for breaching a condition of its Environment Protection Licence (“Licence”) issued by the Environment Protection Authority (“EPA”) in respect of GrainCorp’s activities at the Port Kembla Grain Terminal (“Terminal”).

The Licence required GrainCorp to carry out its activities in a competent manner. However, in the period of 23 February 2016 to 23 January 2018, GrainCorp failed to carry out certain fumigant ventilation activities in a competent manner in that it incorrectly calculated and recorded the rate at which it emitted methyl bromide and phosphine, being fumigants used to fumigate grain at the Terminal, into the atmosphere (“the Calculation Error”). As a result of the Calculation Error, GrainCorp inadvertently exceeded the maximum emission rate of methyl bromide and phosphine imposed under the Licence on 145 occasions.

Upon becoming aware of the Calculation Error, GrainCorp reported the error to the EPA and all relevant authorities. There was no evidence of actual harm to human health or the environment arising from the Calculation Error. At all times, GrainCorp cooperated with the EPA’s investigation in relation to the Calculation Error including by providing timely responses to all requests for information and undertaking an independent audit. It has put in place a number of measures to ensure that the Calculation Error is rectified and that no similar exceedances occur again.

On 1 October 2019 the Land and Environment Court convicted GrainCorp of an offence against s 64(1) of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 for contravening a condition of its Licence and ordered it to:

1. pay an amount of \$40,200 to the Environmental Trust in lieu of a fine;
2. pay the EPA’s professional costs; and
3. publish this notice in the The Australian Financial Review, The Sydney Morning Herald and the Illawarra Mercury, on GrainCorp Limited’s website, in its next Sustainability Report, and on various social media websites.

### **GrainCorp Limited**

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