



Media Statement

15 November 2010

Southern Ag Grain ready for harvest with access to finance of \$475million

Southern Ag Grain (SAG) today announced it had secured access to a \$475 million syndicated facility established by joint venture partner Emerald.

Lead by ANZ, the new syndicated facility replaces existing facilities and includes the 4 major Australian banks, ANZ, Commonwealth, NAB and Westpac, together with HSBC.

SAG's General Manager, Simon Wishart, said that access to the extended funding arrangements will allow the business to continue to grow volumes in 2010/11.

"Despite recent years challenging local and global conditions, SAG has experienced exceptional growth in its first year and, as such, I am especially pleased to announce that SAG has access to this new facility, demonstrating the confidence in our business model.

Leading into harvest, the new syndicated facility and extended funding lines is timely to confirm to our grower customers that SAG, and joint venture partner Emerald, is in a strong financial position, with significant facilities available to pay our growers. It's fundamental to our business that our customers feel completely confident when delivering grain to SAG.

"The extended funding arrangements for this harvest support our growth plans, together with what we hope continues to be a rewarding season for our growers," concluded Simon.

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Background information

Emerald Group Australia Pty Ltd is a leading Australian grain marketing company operating via 13 offices across all Australian states and offering a range of grain marketing products to assist grower customers maximise returns and manage grain market risks. Emerald offers a range of pool, fixed price and tailored hedging products to a national grain grower customer base.

Emerald's unique business model includes commercial partnerships with grower organisations that assist these local communities take greater control and directly benefit from grain market liberalisation. It operates with various brand names via these partnerships including in Victoria a joint venture, SQP Pty Ltd, with grower group Southern Quality Produce Co-operative. On the Eyre Peninsula in South Australia Emerald has a joint venture, EP Grain, with farmer owned company FREE Eyre Ltd. Southern Ag Grain (SAG) is a joint venture, between grower-owned Southern Agventure (SAV) and Emerald, it services the grain growers of southern NSW.

In Western Australia Emerald operates in its own name and is one of the major marketers in that state. It has strong alliances have also been formed with WA Farmers and Ravensdown United Farmers Co-operative. Philp Brodie Grains now operates as a subsidiary of Emerald and from its Toowoomba base services the southern and central Queensland grain growing regions.

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