

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO REGIONAL NVT ADVISORY COMMITTEES

### Background

The GRDC established the National Variety Trials (NVT) program in 2005 to independently evaluate new varieties of winter cereals, canola and selected pulse crops from all public and private breeding programs prior to their commercial release and make the information freely available to Australian grain growers. Currently, 600 trials are sown at over 250 locations each year in NVT and the crops tested are wheat, barley, triticale, oats, canola, lupins, lentils, field peas, faba beans and chickpeas.

In 2008, the NVT program was formally reviewed to assess the performance of the program against its objectives of delivering impartial varietal information to Australian grain growers. Key review findings and recommendations that will be implemented can be found in summary document on the GRDC website ([www.grdc.com.au/director/events/onfarmtrials/nvtreview](http://www.grdc.com.au/director/events/onfarmtrials/nvtreview)).

### NVT Advisory Committees

One of the key findings arising from the NVT Review was the need for a more formalised advisory and consultative mechanism for stakeholder involvement in NVT operations. Consequently, GRDC will establish regional NVT Advisory Committees for the regions highlighted in Figure 1.

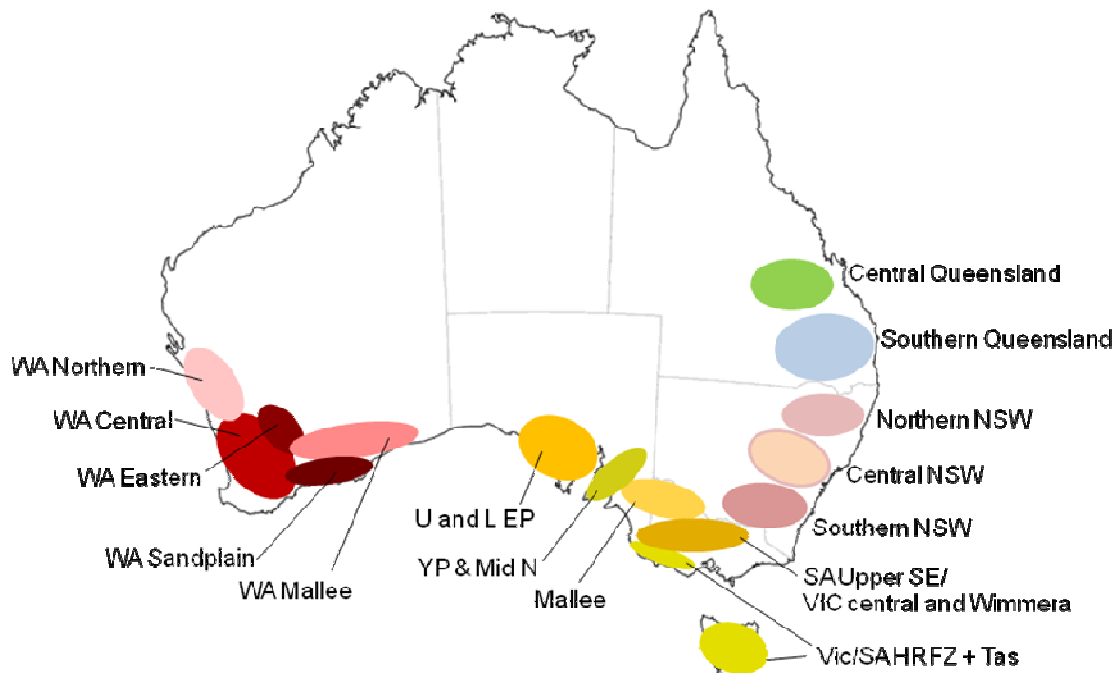


Figure 1. NVT Advisory Committee network

### Call for Nominees

GRDC is currently in the process of identifying suitable grower and agronomist representatives to participate in these committees and as such **invites interested persons with appropriate skills to nominate** to be considered for the Advisory Committee in their region. Nominees are requested to provide their contact details including a brief description of relevant expertise to Nicole Carney ([n.carney@grdc.com.au](mailto:n.carney@grdc.com.au)) by **21<sup>st</sup> May 2010**.

### **Role of NVT Advisory Committees**

NVT Advisory Committees will meet once a year, preferably in conjunction with another annual event (i.e. crop update) held in the region. Committees will be chaired by a GRDC representative, and include NVT staff, together with representatives from the breeders, growers, agronomists, plant pathologists, statisticians, service providers, and extension experts. The Advisory Committee's Terms of Reference will encompass providing advice on operational issues to the NVT Manager and GRDC on:

- trial site numbers and locations
- rules for nomination and retention of lines
- changes to trial protocols
- data analysis and reporting
- auditing of trial sites
- commissioning external reports on NVT issues.

Expenses associated with participation in NVT Advisory Committees will be met by the GRDC.