



Rice Harvested Prior to the End of Vesting and Exporting

29 October 2024

The finalisation of the *Rice Marketing Amendment Act 2024* provides for an end to rice vesting with northern NSW growers becoming exempt from all vesting arrangements from 1 September 2024, with any rice harvested after that date being able to be exported. Southern NSW growers will be exempt from 1 July 2025 with rice harvested after that date being able to be exported. The Rice Marketing Board (RMB) will be wound-up by 1 July 2026.

The rice vesting provisions allow one Sole and Exclusive Export License (SEEL) to export milled rice from NSW. Unless a person or entity is the holder of that SEEL, any rice harvested prior to 1 September 2024 in northern NSW is still subject to the vesting arrangements and cannot be exported. Similarly, any rice harvested in southern NSW before 1 July 2025 is subject to vesting arrangements and cannot be exported, except by the SEEL holder.

Section 51B(1) of the current *Rice Marketing Act 1983* states that “a person who sells or supplies [rice] to a person outside Australia is guilty of an offence”. Breaching this section of the *Act* can carry substantial penalties.

In the transition period to full deregulation the RMB will continue to monitor compliance with the SEEL and the *Act* through its auditing process on NSW rice grown before 1 September 2024 in Northern NSW and prior to 1 July 2025 in Southern NSW. Authorised Buyers need to satisfy themselves that their customers are aware of the requirements of the *Rice Marketing Act 1983* and the *Rice Marketing Amendment Act 2024* and the restrictions in place on exporting NSW vested rice.

For further information contact Ms. Nyree Dunn, Board Secretary, 02 6953 3200 or email secretary@rmbnsw.org.au