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The Australian Government has granted Manildra Group's Shoalhaven Starches facility, a bulk grain import permit to meet a high protein wheat supply shortfall due to the severe droughts of 2017/18 and 2018/19.

The high protein Canadian wheat import permit has been issued and managed by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWR).

The application was assessed by DAWR to ensure the strict biosecurity protocols were met, for exclusive processing at the Shoalhaven Starches facility in Nowra, South Coast New South Wales.

Due to the worst drought in 116 years, high protein wheat is in short-supply and is critical to the Shoalhaven Starches wheat-processing plant which secures hundreds of regional jobs and the continuation of wheat processing at that plant.

Shoalhaven Starches preference is to use Australian wheat, and will continue to buy high protein wheat from Australian farmers, as supply permits.

Facts:

- It is the first time in the 67 year company's history that exceptional drought circumstances have forced the requirement to import.
- Imported high protein wheat will be exclusively processed at Shoalhaven Starches, in Nowra, South Coast New South Wales.
- Manildra's inland New South Wales mills at Manildra, Gunnedah and Narrandera will continue to be solely supplied with only local, Australian wheats.
- So far in 2018/19, Manildra Group has sourced as much high protein wheat on the Australian market as is available and continues to do so.
- The imported high protein wheat will be exclusively transformed at our Shoalhaven Starches facility into value-added products primarily for the export market.
- Significant investment at Shoalhaven Starches facility has ensured a completely closed loop, world-class processing system.
- Details of the wheat import permit media release can be found on DAWR's site: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/single-shipment-bulk-grain-permit-issued>