

THE RESPONSE OF THE SILO MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN
AUSTRALIA TO THE SEALING OF TRANSPORTABLE GRAIN SILOS.

NEWMAN, CR

*Agriculture Western Australia, (Industry Resource Protection Program),
Bougainvillea Ave, Forrestfield, Western Australia 6058, Australia
Fax: 09 453 1228*

Research in Australia in the 1970s suggested it was possible to effectively seal farm grain storage to create an environment in which fumigation would be effective. The information was communicated to all government advisory agencies across Australia to be disseminated to manufacturers and users of grain silos. In Western Australia in 1982 this information was transferred by the Agriculture Protection Board through its extensive network of officers. Sealing standards were recommended to silo manufacturers and advice on how to conduct correct fumigation procedures were communicated to farmers. In the eastern states of Australia the extension network although comprehensive, relied on individual effort by advisers to create transfer opportunities. Economics of manufacturing and the requirements of purchasers influenced design developments by individual manufacturers. In Western Australia this evolutionary process resulted in the adoption of a narrow range of successful sealing techniques. In the eastern states of Australia advice was acted on by some manufacturers and there was low demand for sealed silos from growers. Later campaigns to stimulate interest in the production and use of sealed grain storage on farms in the eastern states created interest in better fumigation techniques. The developments in silo design and the stimuli to change to sealed silos are discussed.