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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Plum Grove gears up for a big harvest with a new noodle pool offering**

Plum Grove announced today that it would be offering a new specialist noodle pool in co-operation with Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd in Western Australia this harvest.

The announcement would be a significant step forward for Western Australian growers wanting closer, transparent access to the noodle markets in Asia according to Plum Grove Managing Director, Andrew Young.

“This product is a direct link to the Japanese and Korean noodle markets for WA growers but done in the Plum Grove way - transparently, clearly defined and with accountability to growers.”

This product combines the strengths of Australia’s best pool manager in Plum Grove with one of the Japanese markets most powerful and most integrated consumers of grain in Mitsui. The aim will be to provide pool participants with clear access to market with a foundation buyer, allowing the pool to aim for maximum value for the grain but with the comfort of Mitsui’s backing.

Growers would be able to receive the benefit of Plum Grove’s excellent track record with the backing of a globally significant grain trading company like Mitsui. “We believe there are significant synergies for Western Australian growers through this agreement and product offering. For growers, we believe the benefits are increased competitiveness for their grain, and for the mills overseas, more direct access to the grain, increasing food security” added Mr. Young.

The Pool will be opening on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November with one of the key features being its short run nature - the pool would run until September 2012 and would be finalised then with growers getting their money sooner than standard pools. The Pool would also feature all the traditional payment methods being available for growers, including distributions, loans and advances.

**Plum Grove**, based in Fremantle, is a specialist Western Australian wheat pool & cash management and export business is recognised as one of Australia’s leading pool providers.

**Mitsui & Co. (Australia) Ltd**, based in Sydney, is a broad based commodity trading company with a long history in Australia exporting minerals , energy and grain, and last financial year reported net assets of \$1.4bn. It is a 100% owned subsidiary of its parent company Mitsui & Co., Ltd. of Japan.

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**For more information, contact:**

Andrew Young  
Plum Grove 08 9435 1022