

Blueberry Fund Annual Investment Plan 2025/26



September 2025

**Hort
Innovation**

**BLUEBERRY
FUND**

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Blueberry Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, blueberry industry representatives meet as an advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Blueberry Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). At these meetings, the panel is provided with a financial forecast and an investment analysis of current investments. Based on this information, they provide Hort Innovation with advice on priorities for investment for the upcoming year.

The blueberry R&D advisory panel met on May 15, 2025 to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2025/26. The R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1.

Note: Investments will be aligned to form multi-industry projects where possible, and all investments are subject to funding availability. If investments do not occur in this financial year, they will be reconsidered and reprioritised for the Blueberry Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.

Table 1. Blueberry R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2025/26

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Generation of data – berry residue trials	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.13 Crop safety data
2	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.6 Protect biosecurity status



Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Blueberry Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Blueberry SIP, can be seen in Table 2. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 2. Current contracted blueberry R&D project actuals at 2025/25 and forecast to 2027/28

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
BB21000	Blueberry industry minor use permit program	1,466	-	-	-
BB23000	Understanding the cause of blueberry root wrapping and associated root crown disorders	329,915	219,943	219,943	329,914
MT18004	Review of the biosecurity plan for the berry sector	7,000	7,996	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program	14,509	10,121	12,189	-
MT22007	Expansion of flies as berry crop pollinators	64,365	81,510	-	-
MT22010	Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries	179,467	179,467	179,467	179,467
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	3,465	-	-	-
MT23003	Berry advisory mechanism	21,410	21,410	26,762	-
MT23004	Multi-industry berry trade development and market access project (2024-2029)	186,564	301,452	169,222	148,647
MT24004	BerryQuest International 2025	33,333	-	-	-
MT24005	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	163	109	136	-
MT24007	Chemical residue report to support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia (2024-2029)	306	162	169	176
MT24008	Regulatory support and response co-ordination (pesticides)	5,856	3,904	3,904	5,856
MT24009	Improving management of chilli thrips in blueberry and rubus	37,618	37,618	37,618	75,238
Total		885,436	863,691	649,409	739,298

Financial statements

Financial statements for the blueberry R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 3 below.

Table 3. Blueberry R&D levy fund actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27 (as at July 1, 2024)

	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
Opening balance	164,987	623,037	575,229	636,425
Levies from growers	970,000	475,000	475,000	275,000
Commonwealth funds	527,100	542,260	424,750	466,525
Other income	15,151	19,452	10,946	15,571
Total income	1,512,251	1,036,712	910,696	757,097
Project funding ¹	885,436	910,780	713,410	783,576
Available for investment	-	-	-	-
Service delivery	168,764	173,740	136,090	149,475
Total matched expenditure	1,054,200	1,084,520	849,500	933,051
Federal Government levy collection costs	-	-	-	-
Annual levy cash movement	458,051	-47,808	61,196	-175,954
Closing balance	623,037	575,229	636,425	460,471

Note:

1. Project funding includes committed projects and projects supported by the advisory panel and currently in the process of procurement.

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