

Dried Tree Fruit Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2025/26



September 2025

Hort
Innovation

DRIED TREE
FRUIT FUND

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Dried Tree Fruit Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, dried tree fruit industry representatives meet as an advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Dried Tree Fruit 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 dried tree fruit R&D advisory panel met on September 30, 2024 and February 25, 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 Dried Tree Fruit Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.

Table 1. Dried tree fruit R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2025/26

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Dried tree fruit industry communications program	2. Extension and capacity building	2.1 Extension capability
		4. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	4.2 Growing system innovation
			4.4 Biosecurity preparedness
2	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	4. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	4.3 Enhance crop pollination and resilience through improved pollination security

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Dried Tree Fruit Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Dried Tree Fruit SIP, can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Current contracted dried tree fruit R&D project actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2026/27

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$
DT23001	Decision support models for Australian dried tree fruit	3,690	-	-
DT23002	Dried tree fruit industry communications program	26,202	14,292	19,056
DT24910	Industry and grower consultation including SIAPs and EAPs	625	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program	-4,924	-	-
MT21015	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2020/21 to 2022/23	17	-	-
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	0	-	-
Total		25,610	14,292	19,056



Financial statements

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

Table 3. Dried tree fruit R&D levy fund actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2027/28 (as at July 1, 2025)

	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
Opening balance	196,121	191,324	161,805	128,303
Levies from growers	3,198	5,500	5,500	5,500
Commonwealth funds	15,257	40,088	42,926	31,574
Other income	7,653	5,472	4,339	3,563
Total income	26,108	51,060	52,765	40,637
Project funding ¹	25,610	17,292	22,056	3,000
Available for investment	-	50,000	50,000	50,000
Service delivery	4,904	12,884	13,796	10,148
Total matched expenditure	30,514	80,176	85,852	63,148
Federal Government levy collection costs	391	403	415	427
Annual levy cash movement	-4,797	-29,519	-33,502	-22,938
Closing balance	191,324	161,805	128,303	105,364

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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