

# Blueberry Fund

Annual Report 2018/19



## The Hort Innovation Blueberry Fund and the industry's voluntary levy

In February 2019, the voluntary blueberry R&D levy was established by the industry, for investment through the blueberry collective industry fund (CIF) – otherwise known as the Hort Innovation Blueberry Fund.

The voluntary levy is currently set at 2.2 cents per kilogram, with a minimum annual contribution for industry of \$275,000 per year.

It's Hort Innovation's responsibility to work with the industry to invest this voluntary levy, together with Australian Government funds, into strategic R&D initiatives. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australia's horticulture sector.

## How will investment decisions be made?

Investments specific to the Hort Innovation Blueberry Fund are to be guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). The blueberry industry has developed its own SIP, and this document will be used like a 'roadmap' by the blueberry Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – a skills-based panel made up of growers and other industry representatives that's tasked with providing advice to Hort Innovation on potential levy investments.

## Project investments in the 2018/19 financial year

With the Hort Innovation Blueberry Fund established in the second half of 2018/19, the voluntary levy was not invested into any R&D projects during the financial period. It is anticipated that the inaugural investment for the industry will be a communications and capacity building project, to be established during 2019/20.

## Keeping track of activity in the Hort Innovation Blueberry Fund

When established, investments for the industry will be detailed on the Blueberry Fund page of the Hort Innovation website, at [www.horticulture.com.au/blueberry](http://www.horticulture.com.au/blueberry). Hort Innovation also sends news and alerts to Hort Innovation members and contacts, so if you haven't already, be sure to sign up for free at [www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up](http://www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up).

You can also reach out to Hort Innovation at any time to learn more about our work, to submit ideas for investments, or to simply have a chat about your industry. You'll find details of specific staff at [www.horticulture.com.au/get-in-touch](http://www.horticulture.com.au/get-in-touch), or can otherwise email [communications@horticulture.com.au](mailto:communications@horticulture.com.au) or call our general line on 02 8295 2300.