



Melon Fund

Annual Report 2018/19

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The projects in this report have been funded by Hort Innovation using sources including the melon levy, Australian Government contributions and, in some instances, co-contributions from a variety of sources.



Just some of the things your fund delivered in 2018/19:

- ✓ **High-impact work to strengthen food safety** and the adoption of best practice across the melon supply chain
- ✓ **The industry development and communications program**, delivering face-to-face events and resources including *Melon Enews* emails and the *Melon News* quarterly newsletter, plus the industry website, www.melonsaustralia.org.au/industry
- ✓ **New research into consumer attitudes and habits** when it comes to melons
- ✓ **A review of agrichemical priorities and gaps** to help direct chemical access and availability for the industry
- ✓ **New final research reports and grower resources**, with several now available from www.horticulture.com.au/melon

2018/19 SNAPSHOT

\$671
THOUSAND
INVESTED
IN R&D

15
ACTIVE R&D
INVESTMENTS



Welcome

Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation (RDC) for Australia's horticulture sector. It's our job to work with industry to invest the melon R&D levy, together with Australian Government contributions, into key initiatives for growers.

The 2018/19 financial year was another great year of growing better, together – with strong investments, closer connections and critical collaborations being forged.

There was more than \$671,000 invested into R&D through the Hort Innovation Melon Fund across the year, to support the industry in being as productive and profitable as possible. This included the establishment of nine new investments, including work allowing the melon industry to join forces with other horticulture industries for maximum efficiency and impact across shared issues and opportunities.

Read on to learn more about all of the projects undertaken. And remember to take advantage of the Hort Innovation website at www.horticulture.com.au/melon, where you can search and find information relating to investments, past and present, at any time. The new site and its Melon Fund section were launched in 2018/19.

During the year there were also many opportunities for Hort Innovation to connect with you, the growers. A big thank you in particular to everyone who came to our early-2019 regional roadshows to feed into the development of the new Hort Innovation Strategy 2019-2023 (read more at www.horticulture.com.au/strategy-2019-2023).

You can reach out to us 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, or can otherwise email communications@horticulture.com.au or call our general line on 02 8295 2300.



Additional value in the year

During 2018/19, Hort Innovation was proud to deliver extra value to the melon industry, outside of levy-funded initiatives within the Melon Fund. Here's a quick look at just some examples.



The new Hort Innovation website, with dedicated Melon Fund section

You can now visit www.horticulture.com.au/melon to quickly search and find melon investment information and updates, project resources, and growing tips and advice from Hort Innovation's R&D work. You can also download full final research reports direct from the site, access key contact information, share your ideas and feedback, and so much more.



The Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook

Each year Hort Innovation delivers an *Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook* packed with horticulture statistical information and analysis for use by specific industries and the wider sector. The handbook combines all available data on production, international trade, processing volumes and fresh market distribution for some 75 categories. The 2017/18 edition, released in early 2019, is available from www.horticulture.com.au/horticulture-statistics-handbook.



Hort Frontiers projects

With seven investment areas, Hort Innovation's Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative is about collaborative, cross-industry work to address longer-term, complex issues and opportunities identified as critical for the future of Australian horticulture. While industry levies can be invested into Hort Frontiers projects upon the advice of the relevant Strategic Investment Advisory Panels, the bulk of funding comes from broad-reaching funding relationships that are secured by Hort Innovation, plus support from the Australian Government. Learn about all of the projects and what they're delivering for you at www.horticulture.com.au/hort-frontiers.



Grant funding

In 2018/19, Hort Innovation delivered \$6.7 million worth of investments involving grant funding across the horticulture sector. To do so, we applied for and secured a range of competitive grants on behalf of industry, including through the Australian Government's Rural R&D for Profit program, Improved Access to AgVet Chemicals initiative, and Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper. With projects across everything from biosecurity to pollination, there's plenty in there to directly and indirectly benefit the melon industry.

Making investments in 2018/19

Hort Innovation is dedicated to making the right investments at the right time and in the right areas, in line with identified priorities for the industry.

Where the funding comes from

The melon industry's grower-raised statutory R&D levy is collected by the Australian Government and entrusted to Hort Innovation as the RDC for Australian horticulture. It's then our responsibility to work with the industry to invest the levy, together with Australian Government contributions, into strategic initiatives for the benefit of growers.

Additional funding streams can also come into play, such as co-investment dollars from sources including project partners, and grant funding that Hort Innovation secures on behalf of industry.

How decisions are made

Towards the tail end of 2018/19, a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Hort Innovation Melon Fund was finalised. Published in 2019/20, this document was developed through consultation with growers and other industry stakeholders, and outlines specific investment priorities, strategies and themes. An at-a-glance version can be found at www.bit.ly/melon-plan, or find the full version at www.horticulture.com.au/melon.

The SIP is available for use like a 'roadmap' by the melon Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – a panel made up of growers and other industry representatives that's tasked with providing advice to Hort Innovation on potential levy investments.

Turning ideas into investments

Great investments start with great ideas, and Hort Innovation encourages all growers and other industry participants to share their thoughts and suggestions for the work they want to see. Ideas can be submitted any time via Hort Innovation's investment idea form at www.bit.ly/concept-form.

Ideas that are selected for investment are worked into project proposals by Hort Innovation. These are then made public for potential delivery partners to submit responses. Current opportunities are always listed at www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners.

Responses are assessed, often with the assistance of industry, and the best delivery partner for the work is chosen. A contract is then issued and the work begins.

Keeping track of investments

All investments in the Hort Innovation Melon Fund are detailed on the 'Your investments' page at www.horticulture.com.au/melon. We also send news and alerts to Hort Innovation members and contacts – if you haven't already, you can sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up.

Importantly, the industry's levy-funded industry development and communications program is tasked with providing growers with regular information on levy-related activity. See p8 for more.



R&D project list 2018/19

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2018/19		ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2018/19	
VM18000	Consumer insights for the Australian melon industry*	VM16000	Melon industry minor use program
VM18002	Risk and crisis management planning for the melon industry	VM17001	Melon industry development and communication
VM18003	Food safety training, extension and capacity for the melon industry – phase 2	VM17002	Food safety, training, extension and capacity for the melon industry
VM18004	Melon TAP application	ST16008	AgVet collaborative forum
VM18009	Reverse trade mission activities	ST17000	Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018†
MT16004	RD&E program for control, eradication and preparedness for vegetable leafminer		
MT18007	Melon and pineapple industry SARP report updates*		
MT18011	Ex-post impact assessment^		
MT18019	Development and implementation of protocols to enable importation of improved honey bee genetics to Australia		

* These flagged projects both began and ended in 2018/19

^ This multi-industry project was a key monitoring and evaluation investment during 2018/19 – we encourage you to find the full details at www.horticulture.com.au/mt18011

† Activities for the melon industry under this investment are funded wholly through the government's AgVet grant program

INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN 2018/19

VM17000 2018 Australian melon industry conference and field days

During the 2018/19 financial year, all levy paying horticulture industries also contributed to a small selection of across-industry projects addressing issues that affect horticulture as a whole. Details of all investments that Hort Innovation manages can be found at www.horticulture.com.au.



But wait, there's more. To see what Hort Innovation delivered across the entire horticulture sector in 2018/19, download the full Hort Innovation Annual Report 2018/19 from www.horticulture.com.au/annual-report-portal.

R&D report

Take a closer look at some of the key investments in the Hort Innovation Melon Fund during 2018/19. Any resources from these and other levy-funded projects – such as fact sheets, guides and more – are published on your grower page at www.horticulture.com.au/melon as they become available.

Food safety training, extension and capacity for the melon industry – phase 2 (VM18003)

NEW IN 2018/19

Key research provider: NSW Department of Primary Industries

This investment is strengthening the food safety systems of the Australian melon industry, by supporting the adoption of best practice across the supply chain. It follows initial investment

Food safety, training, extension and capacity for the melon industry (VM17002) which was ongoing during 2018/19 and finished early in 2019/20.

Like its predecessor, VM18003 supports food safety training activities across the country for melon growers, farm managers and key farm staff. With the initial project focusing on rockmelons, this second phase includes watermelon businesses as well.

Information on the project's training opportunities is circulated through the Australian Melon Association's channels (www.melonsaustralia.org.au/industry).

The project also involves delivery of key practical resources for industry, including a Best Practice Guide to help the industry identify and manage potential microbial risks, along with other essential food safety information and tools.

Risk and crisis management planning for the melon industry (VM18002)

NEW IN 2018/19

Key research provider: Control Risks Group

This investment is reviewing and updating the Australian melon industry's crisis management guidelines. As well as identifying risks and mitigation activities, in the event of an issue or crisis, having a clear plan in place ensures the industry is prepared with the information and processes needed to respond effectively, responsibly and in a coordinated, unified way. The management guidelines – and the relevant training this project is delivering – also ensure that stakeholders involved in crisis response for the industry understand the process and are equipped and ready to be involved.

Consumer insights for the Australian melon industry (VM18000)

NEW IN 2018/19 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research providers: Colmar Brunton and Nielsen

Beginning in April 2019, this short investment undertook research to deliver insights into Australian melon consumers, including their melon consumption habits and attitudes. The information will be available to help growers and other participants in the melon value chain understand impacts on sales and identify opportunities, such as ideal product offerings. The work also evaluated the impact of the food safety incident in early 2018.

2018 Australian melon industry conference and field days (VM17000)

NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Australian Melon Association

This investment facilitated the 2018 Australian Melon Industry Conference & Field Days, held in September 2018. This event was about helping growers access and share knowledge, including the latest technical and practical information, and providing an opportunity for connecting with supply chain partners and research providers.

The welcome event was on the evening of September 17 on Magnetic Island, while the conference portion took place across September 18 and 19 at the Mercure Townsville, and the field day portion was held on September 20 at Kenrose Co in Rita Island, not too far from the Ayr CBD.

Full details can be found in the project's final research report, which can be downloaded from www.bit.ly/vm17000.

Melon industry development and communication (VM17001)

Key research provider: Dianne Fullelove

Beginning in late 2017, this investment is tasked with supporting Australian melon growers in adopting improved practices on-farm and keeping up-to-date with the latest industry news, information, resources and technologies. To this end, it funds the position of dedicated industry development manager Dianne Fullelove, who can be reached at mdp@melonsaustralia.org.au.

The industry development manager role is a broad one, with all activities geared towards improving the circulation and uptake of information within the industry.

Core communication channels that continue to be produced and maintained by the project include:

- » Monthly *Melon Enews* e-newsletters
- » The industry's quarterly newsletter, *Melon News*
- » The Australian Melon Association website, with the industry area holding news, information and resources for growers
- » The Australian Melon Association's Facebook page
- » Fact sheets, as needed.

Visit www.melonsaustralia.org.au/industry to access all of the above, and contact Dianne at the email address above to be added to the communication distribution lists.

This project also involves face-to-face events for the industry, with the industry development manager running a program of grower technical meetings throughout each year. Meetings are advertised in industry communication channels, and related resources – including presentations from the meetings – are made available on the industry website.

As well, the project assists in the running of industry conferences and field days, and also includes working closely with researchers and government agencies to support the sharing of information, to maintain industry plans, foster collaboration between research projects and more.

Melon and pineapple industry SARP report updates (MT18007)

NEW IN 2018/19 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Jeevan Lal Khurana

This investment facilitated a 2019 Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) for both the melon and pineapple industries, to provide a clear view of current priorities and gaps regarding pest, disease and weed control.

Each industry's SARP report is available to help direct ongoing efforts to ensure the availability of and access to effective chemical control tools for the industries, to address those needs and gaps. This may relate to pursuing chemical registration with agrichemical companies, or minor use permits with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA).



The SARP process involved industry consultation and desktop studies to:

- » Assess the importance of the diseases, insects and weeds that can affect each industry
- » Evaluate the availability and effectiveness of fungicides, insecticides and herbicides (pesticides) in the control of these plant pests
- » Determine any gaps in the current pest control strategy
- » Identify suitable new or alternative pesticides to address the gaps.

You can download the melon SARP report, released in April 2019, from www.bit.ly/mt18007.

Melon industry minor use program (VM16000)

Key research provider: Hort Innovation

Through this project, levy funds and Australian Government contributions are used to submit renewals and applications for minor use permits for the melon industry as required. These submissions are prepared and submitted to the APVMA.

For more on minor use permits, including a list of permits, see p11.

All current minor use permits for the industry are searchable at portal.apvma.gov.au/permits. Permit updates are also circulated in Hort Innovation's *Growing Innovation* e-newsletter, which you can sign up for at www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up.



Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018 (ST17000)

Key research provider: Peracto

The generation of pesticide residue, efficacy and crop safety data is required to support label registration and minor use permit applications made to the APVMA which, when approved, provide access to safe and effective chemicals for the management of pests, weeds and diseases.

In May 2018, Hort Innovation announced the securing of more than \$1 million in assistance grants under the Australian Government's Access to Industry Uses of Agricultural and Veterinary (AgVet) Chemicals program. This funding is being used to generate the data required for a range of registration and minor use applications across a variety of horticulture crops.

For the melon industry, the grant funding is producing data to support an AgNova cucurbit crop group label registration application for Zampro (ametoctradin + dimethomorph), for the control of downy mildew. This cucurbit label registration will cover all melons.

RD&E program for control, eradication and preparedness for vegetable leafminer (MT16004)

NEW IN 2018/19

Key research provider: Cesar, in conjunction with others

While this investment began in 2017 and initially involved the vegetable and nursery industries, in 2018/19 the melon industry became a co-investor in the work. The project is bolstering preparedness for and protection against the potential spread of vegetable leafminer (*Liriomyza sativae*) through Australian growing regions. The pest is capable of infesting a broad range of crops and was first detected on the country's mainland in 2015, in a backyard garden in the Cape York Peninsula community of Seisia.

A variation to the project in late 2018 expanded the work to also cover two additional leafminers: American serpentine leafminer (*Liriomyza trifolii*) and serpentine leafminer (*Liriomyza huidobrensis*).

Specific project activities include developing information and resources for monitoring, managing and eradicating leafminers; identifying and modelling the spread of the pests; reviewing and looking at accessibility of chemical and biological control options; and generally increasing awareness and understanding of the leafminers in the relevant industries and in the community.

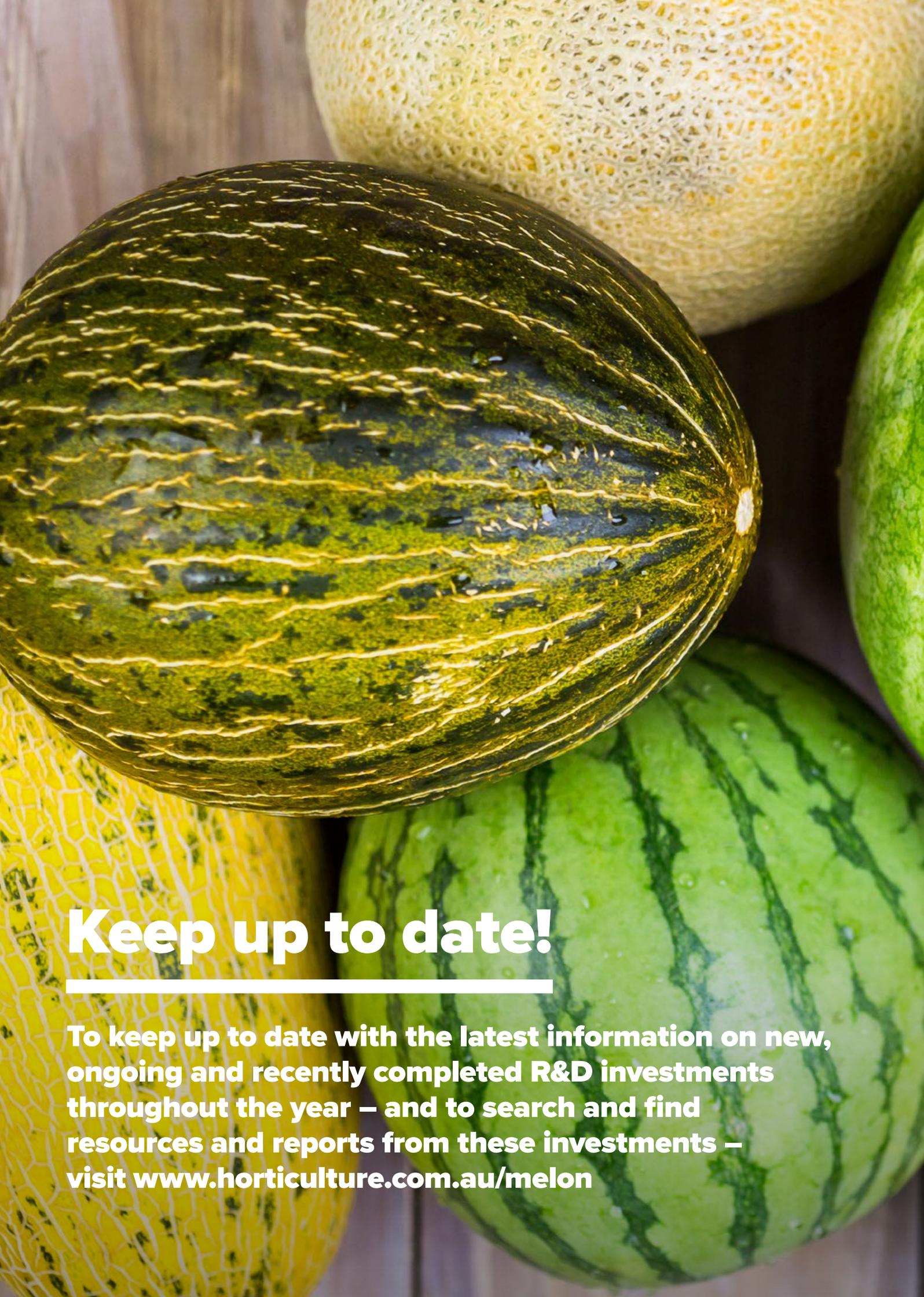
Development and implementation of protocols to enable importation of improved honey bee genetics to Australia (MT18019)

NEW IN 2018/19

Key research provider: CSIRO

This investment is laying the groundwork to allow the first importation of desirable honey bee germplasm into Australia, with a focus on sourcing genetic material from bees with a tolerance to Varroa mite and its associated viruses.

Import of and access to this material for breeding purposes will allow both the honey bee and horticulture industries to prepare for the threat of Varroa, by pre-emptively establishing Varroa tolerant genetics in Australia's honey bee population. See www.bit.ly/mt18019 for more.



Keep up to date!

To keep up to date with the latest information on new, ongoing and recently completed R&D investments throughout the year – and to search and find resources and reports from these investments – visit www.horticulture.com.au/melon

Minor use permits

The Hort Innovation Melon Fund supports the submission of applications for new and renewed minor use permits for the industry, as well as data generation activities to support chemical permits and registrations, and strategic agrichemical reviews.

Together these efforts provide industry access to safe, relevant and effective chemicals for the management of pests, weeds and diseases.

For full details on these activities and links to relevant information, visit www.bit.ly/minor-use-melon.

Permits in 2018/19

During the 2018/19 financial year, a successful renewal application for PER13170 (issued as PER87065) was prepared by Hort Innovation and submitted to the APVMA, facilitated through the *Melon industry minor use program* (VM16000).

Details for this and all other permits can be found in the following table.



Current permits

Below is a list of minor use permits for the banana industry, current as of 19 September 2019.

PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION	DATE ISSUED	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER14840 Version 3*	Bupirimate / Cucurbits (bitter melon, cucumber, gherkin, pumpkin, squash, watermelon, squash, zucchini) and peppers / Powdery mildew	01-Oct-14	30-Sep-24	Hort Innovation
PER12221 Version 4*	Petroleum oil / Specified vegetable crops (including melons) / Specified insect pests (including greenhouse whitefly, sweetpotato whitefly and silverleaf whitefly B biotype and whitefly Q biotype)	29-Jun-12	30-Nov-22	Hort Innovation
PER87065	Dimethoate / Melons including watermelons (post-harvest) / Various fruit fly species	18-Feb-19	28-Feb-24	Hort Innovation
PER82428 Version 4*	Methomyl / Various crops including fruiting vegetables (cucurbits) / Various pests – Helicoverpa, cucumber moth, cluster caterpillar, loopers, webworm, Rutherglen bug, thrips – including WFT	22-Apr-16	31-Mar-24	Hort Innovation
PER14650 Version 2	Etoxazole (Paramite miticide) / Melons (including cantaloupe, honeydew melon, watermelon) / Two-spotted mite	07-Nov-14	28-Feb-23	Australian Melon Association Inc C/Hort Innovation
PER14765 Version 4*	Hexythiazox (Calibre) / Cucurbits including melons / Tomato russet mite, broad mite, and two-spotted mite	21-Feb-15	30-Sep-23	Hort Innovation
PER80718 Version 3	Methyl bromide / Fruit and fruiting vegetables, food producing plants and ornamentals / Fruit fly, whitefly and thrips (Quarantine treatment all states)	12-Apr-15	31-Mar-25	Biosecurity SA
PER13859 Version 2	Dimethoate / Orchard clean-up – fruit fly host crops following harvest / Fruit fly	09-Feb-15	31-Jul-24	Hort Innovation
PER80101 Version 3*	Clothianidan (Samurai) / Cucurbit vegetables / Cucumber fruit fly	10-Nov-15	30-Sep-23	Hort Innovation
PER81876 Version 3*	Abamectin / Fruiting vegetables, including cucurbits (except sweet corn and mushrooms), leafy vegetables (except lettuce), legume vegetables, root and tuber vegetables, bulb onions, cabbage (head), celery, rhubarb and bulb vegetables (including leeks and spring onions) / Vegetable leafminer (<i>Liriomyza sativae</i>)	24-Jun-16	30-Apr-24	Hort Innovation
PER87051	Thiamethoxam + chlorantraniliprole (Durivo) / Various specified crops (including melons protected and field) / Various specified pests (including corn earworm, native budworm, cabbage aphid, green peach aphid, silverleaf whitefly, greenhouse whitefly, western flower thrips, onion thrips <i>QLD only, and within specified regions only</i>	25-Feb-19	28-Feb-24	Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers

* **Please note:** These flagged permits have been fully funded by the vegetable industry levy. No funds have been contributed by any other industries to maintain the permits. The vegetable industry may choose to change any details of these permits or surrender these permits at its discretion.

All efforts have been made to provide the most current, complete and accurate information on these permits, however you should always confirm all details on the APVMA website at portal.apvma.gov.au/permits. Details of the conditions of use associated with these permits can also be found on the APVMA site.

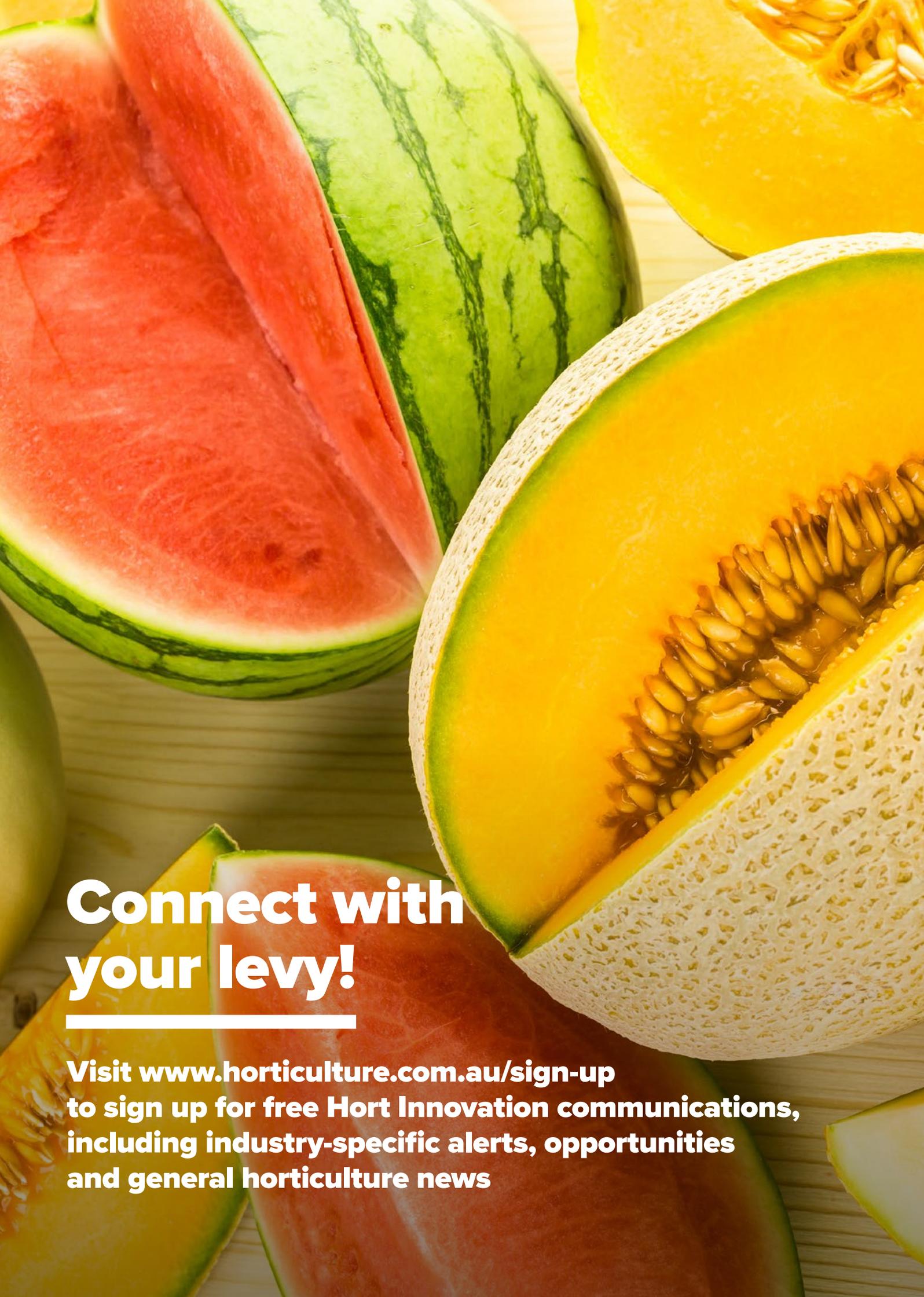
Minor use permit updates are circulated in Hort Innovation's e-newsletter, *Growing Innovation*. Don't yet receive it? Sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up.

Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2018/19

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2018/19 July – June	2018/19 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	989,878	989,878
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	848,184	848,184
Australian Government money	416,889	416,889
Other income*	26,998	26,998
TOTAL INCOME	1,292,071	1,292,071
Project funding	671,322	671,322
Consultation with and advice from growers	19,914	19,914
Service delivery – base	29,182	29,182
Service delivery – shared	48,359	48,359
Service delivery – fund specific	65,000	65,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	833,777	833,777
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	19,097	19,097
CLOSING BALANCE	1,429,074	1,429,074
Levy collection costs	20,738	20,738

* Interest, royalties



Connect with your levy!

**Visit www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up
to sign up for free Hort Innovation communications,
including industry-specific alerts, opportunities
and general horticulture news**

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