

Almond Fund

2017/18
ANNUAL REPORT



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



SUMMARY BY
DUMI MHLANGA
 RELATIONSHIP
 MANAGER,
 HORT INNOVATION

We're for growers

At Hort Innovation it's our job to work with industry to invest the almond levy and Australian Government contributions into initiatives to help growers be as productive and profitable as possible – and 2017/18 was another fantastic year of growing better, together.

With **more than \$2.73 million invested by Hort Innovation into R&D for the almond industry during 2017/18**, including into a host of new projects, I'm happy to be able to share with you all the key insights in this Hort Innovation Almond Fund Annual Report.

You'll find a top-level list of all R&D investments from the year on **p3**, and can explore the research projects in more detail from **p4**. Just some of the highlights include strong new investments to help growers tackle pests and diseases on-farm, completed work that has made important progress towards the better management of Carpophilus beetles, and the range of investments dedicated to supporting orchard productivity.

On a personal note, thank you for welcoming me as your new Relationship Manager. I know that during 2017/18 my predecessor, Corrine Jasper, enjoyed getting to connect with you about everything going on in the Almond Fund, and getting to hear your thoughts and share ideas. During 2018/19 I'm looking forward to doing the same, with even more opportunities to connect in person and a reminder that you can reach me any time at dumi.mhlanga@horticulture.com.au or on 0447 091 186 if there's something you'd like to ask or discuss around levy investments.

I also encourage you to explore the easy ways you can stay close to all of the good things your levy is achieving throughout the year...

- » **Become a member.** Paying a levy doesn't automatically make you a Hort Innovation member, but signing up is free at www.horticulture.com.au/membership. As well as providing the opportunity for voting rights at the organisation's Annual General Meeting, Hort Innovation membership includes exclusive email alerts with industry-specific news and opportunities, direct invitations to explore investment updates and more.
- » **Check out Hortlink.** This digital publication provides an update on all new, ongoing and recently completed investments in the Hort Innovation Almond Fund. The latest edition is always available from the Almond Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/almond, while members have *Hortlink* sent straight to their inboxes.
- » **Engage with your industry communications program.** The *Australian almond industry communications program* (AL16000) is dedicated to bringing the latest information and advice to growers, including news, outcomes and resources related to levy investments (look for the Hort Innovation Almond Fund logo to easily identify work related to your levy). The communications program is funded through the Hort Innovation Almond Fund and delivered by the Almond Board of Australia, with more info available on **p8**.

Here's to another great year of investments and connection in 2018/19,

Dumi Mhlanga
 Almond Relationship Manager, Hort Innovation
 (e) dumi.mhlanga@horticulture.com.au (m) 0447 091 186

Making levy investments

Discover how the almond levy and Australian Government contributions are invested through the Hort Innovation Almond Fund in this quick recap.

Where do investment ideas come from?

Great investments start with great ideas, and Hort Innovation encourages all growers and other industry participants to share their thoughts and suggestions for the research initiatives they want to see.

Ideas can be submitted any time via Hort Innovation's simple Concept Proposal Form. Visit www.horticulture.com.au/innovation-concept-pipeline.

Ideas can be for your specific industry – to be funded by the industry levy and Australian Government contributions – or they can be for Hort Innovation's strategic partnership initiative, Hort Frontiers. Hort Frontiers projects address broader, longer-term and more complex issues facing Australian horticulture as a whole, and are funded through partnerships with co-investors. Visit www.hortfrontiers.com.au for more.

How are levy decisions made?

Let's talk 'SIPs' and 'SIAPs'!

Investments specific to the Hort Innovation Almond Fund are guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which was finalised by Hort Innovation in April 2017 after close consultation with growers and other industry stakeholders.

The SIP outlines key industry priorities for investment and can be found on the Almond Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/almond.

The SIP document is used like a 'roadmap' by the almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – a panel made up of growers and other industry representatives, which has a key role to play in the investment process. The SIAP discusses investment ideas at consultation meetings, with the SIP guiding them, in order to provide advice to Hort Innovation on potential levy investments.

Details of the SIAP panellists and summaries of the SIAP's meetings can be found at www.horticulture.com.au/almond.

What happens next?

The SIAP's advice is used by Hort Innovation to work suitable ideas into project proposals. The proposals are then made public for potential delivery partners to submit responses. Current opportunities are always listed at www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners.

At the end of the process the 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.

How can I keep track of investments?

Newly contracted projects are announced in Hort Innovation's *Hortlink* publication, with the latest edition emailed directly to members three times a year and always available from the Almond Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/almond. *Hortlink* also provides updates on ongoing and recently completed investments.

The industry communications program, run through the investment *Australian almond industry communications program* (AL16000), also provides regular information on levy-funded activity. See [p8](#) for more.



R&D project list 2017/18

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18

AL16005	An integrated disease management program for the Australian almond industry
AL16006	Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production – stage 2
AL16007	Educating health professionals
AL16009	An integrated pest management program for the Australian almond industry
AL16010	Market development program – Europe
MT17015	Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce
MT17022	10th Australasian Soilborne Disease Symposium sponsorship
ST16008	AgVet collaborative forum

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18

AL12003	Advanced processing of almonds
AL12015	Australian almond variety evaluation and commercialisation program
AL13009	Better tree performance and water use efficiency through root system resilience
AL14005	Identifying factors that influence spur productivity in almond
AL14007	Almond productivity: tree architecture and development of new growing systems
AL14006	Managing almond production in a variable and changing climate

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18 *(continued)*

AL16000	Australian almond industry communications program
AL16001	Australia almond industry innovation and adoption program
AL16002	Almond minor use permit program
AL16003	Almond industry statistics and data collection 2017-2019
AL16004	Development of high health status mother planting for new Australian almond varieties
AL16700	Australian almond industry conferences and field days 2017-2021
AL16701	Almond study tour
MT16005	Enhanced National Bee Pest Surveillance Program
MT16010	Horticultural trade data 2017–2019
MT16011	Horticulture trade intelligence reporting 2017–2019

INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN 2017/18

AL15004	Management of Carpophilus beetle in almonds
MT13061	Understanding the purchase behaviour of fresh produce consumers
MT15032	Monitoring and evaluation framework for the industry Strategic Investment Plan
MT15033	Strategic Investment Plan

During the 2017/18 financial year, all Australian levy paying horticulture industries also contributed to across-industry projects addressing issues that affect horticulture as a whole. Visit www.horticulture.com.au/across-horticulture for financial documents and information on this program.

R&D report

Take a closer look at some of the key investments in the Hort Innovation Almond Fund during 2017/18. 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/almond as they become available.

Management of *Carpophilus* beetle in almonds (AL15004)

NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: The Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

This project began in 2016, in response to industry concern about the impact and management of *Carpophilus* beetles in almond production – after confirmation that the beetles were present in almost 70 per cent of almond plantings. It concluded late in the 2017/18 period.

The primary aim of the work was to clarify which of the many species of *Carpophilus* is responsible for damaging almonds, and to investigate the use of an attract and kill system (as used in stone fruit orchards) in reducing kernel damage by the pest.

Regarding *Carpophilus* species, large-scale field trials were conducted to collect and identify beetles from attract and kill traps across 12 orchards in three states. At least 12 different *Carpophilus* species and other related beetle species were caught in the traps – however the vast majority of kernel damage was being caused by a single unidentified species. That species was temporarily named *Carpophilus* near *dimidiatus*, due to its similarity to the known species *Carpophilus dimidiatus*.

Infestation and damage by the new species was found to commence at hull split, with damage levels increasing rapidly thereafter – indicating the need to harvest and disinfest crops as early as possible to minimise damage.

Repeated sampling of nuts remaining in orchards after harvest showed residual and mummy nuts to be a major source of the damaging *Carpophilus* species, with potential to support massive population increases of the pest. The project team reported that preventing these nuts or destroying them through orchard hygiene practices is likely to be a critical factor for success in managing *Carpophilus*, regardless of other management options being implemented.

Results from the project's field trials also revealed that, while the stone fruit attract and kill system did trap the damaging species of *Carpophilus* in almond orchards, trap catches did not reflect the high level of damage being caused to kernels. The researchers noted that this suggested the current trapping system is not sufficiently effective to be of economic benefit to growers.

The evidence gathered from this study strongly suggested the need for research to improve the current attract and kill system, through tailoring the attractants specifically for *Carpophilus* near *dimidiatus*, increasing longevity of these formulations, and making the trap more cost-effective to growers. This important knowledge gap is now being addressed through new project *An integrated pest management program for the Australian almond industry* (AL16009).

Want to keep up to date with the latest information on new, ongoing and recently completed R&D investments throughout the year? Check out Hort Innovation's **Hortlink** publication – the latest edition is always available from your grower page, www.horticulture.com.au/almond.



An integrated pest management program for the Australian almond industry (AL16009)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: The Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

This program is designed to help growers tackle the problem of insect pests and the damage they cause almond crops both in the orchard and after harvest. With a focus on integrated pest management, it is developing a toolkit of practices, technologies and guidelines to help growers reduce insect populations, with areas of investigation including...

- » Improved orchard hygiene and mummy management
- » New 'attract and kill' technologies that target damaging *Carpophilus* species and female carob moths
- » Improved mating disruption for carob moths
- » Pesticide options that are more compatible with an integrated pest management approach
- » Improved understanding of pest species and their natural enemies (biological controls)
- » Improved post-harvest disinfestation and monitoring.

An integrated disease management program for the Australian almond industry (AL16005)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: The Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

Complementing the work of the integrated pest management program for the industry described above, this program is tasked with helping growers improve the on-farm management of key diseases of almonds. During its course it will involve disease surveys across Australia's major almond-growing regions and trials to better understand the diseases and their management options. The investment will culminate in the development of integrated disease management guidelines for use in almond production.

Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production – stage 2 (AL16006)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This investment carries on from earlier industry work to evaluate a range of potential new almond rootstocks – assessing their compatibility with the common almond cultivars grown in Australia, and their performance under the country's various growing conditions.

The earlier work saw 14 rootstocks, including Nemaguard, planted for evaluation at a trial site in Lindsay Point, Victoria. Project AL16006 is continuing these evaluations and building upon the research, including through the introduction of new technologies and the establishment of further trials.

Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce (MT17015)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Nielsen

Contracted in June 2018, this multi-industry investment is tasked with providing regular consumer behaviour data and insight reporting to a range of industries, including the almond industry. This information is intended to assist growers and supply chain partners in decision-making for their businesses and, for the wider industry, the data and insights will be available to support strategic activities.

At the time of writing, the data and insights were soon to be easily accessible via a new online dashboard – look for further information in industry and Hort Innovation channels as it becomes available.

This project represents an evolution of previous investment *Understanding the purchase behaviour of fresh produce consumers* (MT13061).

Educating health professionals (AL16007)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia in collaboration with The Australian Nutrition Foundation, Victorian Division (Nutrition Australia)

This collaborative investment for the Almond Fund is collating and communicating the scientific evidence on almonds and the role they play in health to a key audience of Australian health professionals, as well as to industry. New and emerging research is being used to create a range of educational resources and opportunities for the health audience, who can in turn communicate almonds as an important 'nutritional solution' to their patients, clients and the wider public.

This work follows similar levy-funded initiatives and has three key sub-programs, including...

- » The Australian Almonds Lifestyle Nutrition Program, focusing on issues including heart health, diabetes and weight
- » The Australian Almonds Fitness and Sports Nutrition Program, focusing on sports nutritionists and fitness trainers
- » The Australian Almonds Industry Nutrition Program, focusing on general health claims available for industry stakeholders to use.

Market development program – Europe (AL16010)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

Between 2008 and 2016, Australian almond exports to Europe grew by 370 per cent, and in 2016 almonds heading to Europe represented 42.6 per cent of total Australian almond export. This new investment will support the continued growth of exports to this key market, facilitating the Australian almond industry's presence at major trade shows held biennially in Cologne, Germany (the Anuga trade fair) and in Paris, France (the SIAL trade fair).

Australian almond variety evaluation and commercialisation program (AL12015) and Development of high health status mother planting for new Australian almond varieties (AL16004)

Key research providers: The University of Adelaide (AL12015) and Almond Board of Australia (AL16004)

These two investments work closely together to help bring new almond varieties to the Australian almond industry. Project AL12015 is responsible for thoroughly evaluating new almond varieties that have been developed with improved production characteristics – being high-yielding, with self-fertility, improved disease tolerance, closed shells and desirable visual and eating qualities. Project AL16004 is then tasked with helping provide the earliest possible access to newly commercialised varieties from the work. Specifically, it is developing mother plantings of virus-tested and true-to-type new trees, which will enable high-health-status budwood material to be provided to nurseries for grafting. This provision of clonal material that is as close as possible to the original generation from the industry's breeding program will ensure trees of reliable performance are available as the foundation of new orchard plantings.

Identifying factors that influence spur productivity in almond (AL14005)

Key research provider: The Victorian Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources (DEDJTR)

This investment is part of a coordinated research program into boosting almond productivity and profitability. Because spurs bear the vast majority of nuts on almond varieties used in Australia, spur population dynamics are of interest in understanding yield fluctuations and trying to maintain high yields from season to season. To this end, the project is investigating the behaviour of fruiting spurs of Nonpareil and Carmel almond cultivars under different management conditions, with the goal of developing better ways to manage orchards.



Almond productivity: Tree architecture and development of new growing systems (AL14007)

Key research provider: Plant & Food Research Australia

This project is being conducted as part of a coordinated research program into boosting almond productivity and profitability. It has a specific focus on tree architecture and the development of new growing systems to optimise sunlight exposure and distribution across almond trees, and to ensure fruit is evenly distributed throughout the whole canopy. Working towards a more slender tree shape, the researchers are also exploring the use of reflective ground covers, plant growth regulators and trunk girdling. The project is also looking at intensive, high-density planting systems for new almond orchards.

Better tree performance and water use efficiency through root system resilience (AL13009)

Key research provider: CSIRO

This project is another investment being conducted as part of a coordinated research program into boosting almond productivity and profitability. It aims to support more informed rootstock choice, more efficient irrigation strategies and more efficient use of nutrition. Its work involves screening a host of rootstocks for resilience to soil-water deficit and high soil conductivity; looking at root function under different irrigation and nutrition regimens; and monitoring whole-of-season tree water use.

Managing almond production in a variable and changing climate (AL14006)

Key research provider: South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI)

This investment is conducting a detailed analysis of climate data in order to assess and prioritise key climate risks for the main almond growing regions in Australia. These risks include heat waves, droughts, untimely rainfall and insufficient chilling units of cold weather. The project will also suggest options for managing these risks, and is developing a tool for how decisions about these management options can be made by almond businesses.



Advanced processing of almonds (AL12003)

Key research provider: The University of South Australia

This investment supports...

- » Research into effective aeration and dehydration of bulk almonds in silos, bunkers and sheds, which is being undertaken by a PhD student
- » Research into the effective hulling of almonds in-field and during processing, as well as the improved cracking of almonds, being conducted by a post-doc Research Fellow
- » Work into technologies to sense temperatures of almonds and their waste in stockpiles; to yield map almond pick-up in the orchards; to compare methods of storing bulk almonds; and to develop almond hulling, cracking and cleaning equipment – with this work involving final-year mechanical engineering and electrical engineering students.

Almond industry statistics and data collection 2017-2019 (AL16003)

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This project collects industry statistics and makes them readily available to growers and other industry stakeholders. This information is intended to allow almond businesses and the broader industry to make timely and effective decisions in planning and resource prioritisation.

Project resources are available through www.growing.australianalmonds.com.au, with specific project activities including...

- » Production of the annual statistics report *Almond Insights*, incorporating the project's annual planting surveys
- » Production of annual crop forecasts
- » Production of monthly export position reports
- » Ongoing collection of domestic and international almond statistics, disseminated through the *In A Nutshell* industry newsletter.

Australian almond industry innovation and adoption program (AL16001)

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This investment is responsible for delivering technical advice to growers, promoting best practice, facilitating the adoption of R&D and identifying and developing initiatives to address the capacity-building requirements of the industry. It supports the roles and activities of three Almond Board of Australia industry development officers. At a broad level, this team's work includes...

- » Industry fields days, workshops, tours and training initiatives, which are advertised in industry channels
- » Input into the *Australian almond industry communications program* (AL16000)
- » Production of fact sheets to take knowledge from projects to growers
- » Face-to-face and other direct engagements with industry participants
- » Establishment and management of demonstration plantings at the Almond Centre for Excellence, in conjunction with other projects, to promote best practice
- » Support for and participation in other industry R&D projects as required
- » Engagement across a range of R&D and industry committees.

Australian almond industry communications program (AL16000)

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This program provides a broad range of timely information to Australian almond growers and other industry stakeholders, to keep the almond community well informed and in a place to make the best-possible business decisions. Communication channels that are produced and maintained by the program include the *In A Nutshell* quarterly industry newsletter, the industry website (www.australianalmonds.com.au) and its grower/levy payers' portal (www.growing.australianalmonds.com.au). The project is also responsible for producing media releases promoting key research findings and events, and utilises social media (Facebook and Twitter), video and face-to-face communications.

Almond minor use program (AL16002)

Key research provider: Hort Innovation

Through this project, levy funds and Australian Government contributions are used to submit renewals and applications for new minor use permits for the almond industry, as required. These submissions are prepared and submitted to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority.

For more on minor use permits, including a list of permits, see [p10](#).

All current permits for the industry remain searchable at portal.apvma.gov.au/permits, while permit updates are also circulated in Hort Innovation's *Growing Innovation* e-newsletter, which levy-paying members receive monthly. Not a member? Sign up to the Hort Innovation membership program for free at www.horticulture.com.au/membership.





Australian almond industry conferences and field days 2017-2021 (AL16700)

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This project supports industry events to help almond growers and supply chain participants improve knowledge, adopt new practices and ultimately enhance their businesses. These events include the biennial Australian Almond Conference – a three-day event with participants from across the supply chain, along with researchers, international delegates and service providers – and the annual Australian Almond R&D Forum & Field Day for growers, providing information on past and current levy-funded research. Details of these events are circulated in industry channels as they become available.

Almond study tour (AL16701)

Key research provider: Almond Board of Australia

This project supports industry relationship building, knowledge sourcing and collaboration with international almond industries by funding study tours for key industry representatives. After each tour, learnings and recaps are shared by the Almond Board of Australia team in industry channels.

10th Australasian Soilborne Disease Symposium sponsorship (MT17022)

NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Plevin and Associates

This multi-industry investment, also involving the Hort Innovation Vegetable and Onion Funds, supported the Soilborne Diseases Symposium, held in Adelaide from September 4 to 7, 2018. The event brought together researchers and industry representatives to review current research into soilborne diseases, and to identify new strategies and techniques with applications across a range of crops. More information on the event can be found at www.asds2018.com.au.

Enhanced National Bee Pest Surveillance Program (MT16005)

HORT FRONTIERS

Key research provider: Plant Health Australia

This investment is delivering a nationally coordinated bee-pest surveillance program to help safeguard honey-bee and pollinator-dependent industries in Australia. It builds upon the previous *National Bee Pest Surveillance Program* (MT12011) and includes upgrading sentinel hive arrays, strengthening relationships with surveillance operators, the introduction of new elements such as Asian hornet screening and more. The surveillance is designed to enable the early detection of high-priority pest incursions that can impact on honey bees, providing the best opportunity for successful pest eradication.

The almond industry is one of several contributors to the work, with the program now part of the Hort Frontiers Pollination Fund. Hort Frontiers is Hort Innovation's strategic partnership initiative, which you can learn more about at www.hortfrontiers.com.au.

Full details of completed research can be found in project final reports which, when finalised, are available to order at www.horticulture.com.au/final-report-order-form. Final reports are free to Australian horticulture levy payers, registered Hort Innovation members and industry representative bodies.

Minor use permits

Why minor use permits?

While the use of pesticides and other chemicals in the horticulture industry is being modified through the increasing uptake of integrated pest management approaches, there remains a need for the strategic use of specific chemicals.

Chemical companies submit use patterns for product label registrations to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA), and the almond industry is generally provided with a number of label registrations because of its 'major' crop status in this area. However, there are instances where chemical companies consider the market size too small to generate adequate commercial returns, based on the R&D investment required. This is where minor use permits come into play. The APVMA's national permit system adds some flexibility to the approval process and provides a legal framework that can allow access to products for minor use purposes.

Permits in 2017/18

During the 2017/18 financial year, a renewal for PER14310 was prepared by Hort Innovation and submitted to the APVMA, facilitated through the *Almond minor use permit program* (AL16002). See details of the permit in the following table.



Current permits

Below is a list of minor use permits for the almond industry, current as of September 1, 2018.

PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER11121	Simazine / Almonds / Broadleaf weeds and grasses	01-Jan-09	31-Mar-20	Almond Board of Australia (ABA C/Hort Innovation)
PER12989 version 3	Propiconazole / Almonds / Blossom blight, anthracnose	01-Sep-11	31-Aug-21	ABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13199 version 3	Phosphorous acid / Almonds / Suppression of phytophthora (all formulations added)	12-Dec-11	31-Mar-20	ABA C/Hort Innovation
PER13387 version 2	Pirimicarb / Almonds / Aphids <i>NB: Permit to be surrendered in December 2018 as Aphidex use now registered</i>	17-Apr-12	31-Mar-19	ABA C/AgAware
PER13642 version 2	Chlorpyrifos and Maldison / Tree nuts / Australian plague locust	01-Sep-12	30-Jun-25	Australian Nut Industry Council C/Hort Innovation
PER14310 version 2	Clofentezine (Apollo) / Almonds / Two-spotted mite, brown almond mite	05-Aug-13	31-Jul-23	ABA C/Hort Innovation
PER14415 version 2	Chlorantraniliprole (Dupont Altacor Hort Insecticide) / Almonds / Carob moth	3-Dec-13	30-Jun-19	ABA
PER14866	Carpophilus Catcha Trapping System / Almonds / Carpophilus beetle	29-Mar-15	29-Mar-25	ABA C/Hort Innovation
PER82138	Bifenthrin (Talstar) / Almonds / Carpophilus beetle, dried fruit beetle	19-Feb-16	31-Mar-19	ABA

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**, which levy-paying members receive monthly. Not a member? Sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/membership.

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Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2017/18

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	538,020	538,020
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	1,541,563	1,541,563
Australian Government money	1,629,954	1,629,954
Other income*	51,375	51,375
TOTAL INCOME	3,222,892	3,222,892
Project funding	2,731,383	2,731,383
Consultation with and advice from growers	29,759	29,759
Service delivery – Base	114,097	114,097
Service delivery – Shared	172,776	172,776
Service delivery – Fund specific	211,894	211,894
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,259,909	3,259,909
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	69,697	69,697
CLOSING BALANCE	431,306	431,306
Levy collection costs	16,647	16,647

At the end of 2016/17, the industry's pro rata share of levy funds were committed to strategic reserves (\$265,490 for R&D), and so have been deducted from the 2017/18 opening balance.

* Interest, royalties

Service delivery costs explained

Base service delivery (flat rate) = keeping the lights on

This figure contributes to the standard fixed costs that are incurred with the running of the business (for example, costs relating to rent, utility bills, equipment). These costs are calculated on a monthly basis and are based on actual program expenditure.

Shared service delivery (flat rate) = related to program delivery

Shared costs are related to program delivery and include costs that are incurred in supporting activities relating to R&D and marketing programs that are not attributable to any one levy industry (for example, costs relating to procurement and information technology activities). These costs are calculated on a monthly basis and are based on actual program expenditure.

Fund specific service delivery (flat rate for 2017/18) = direct servicing costs

These are the actual costs for activities and services that are directly incurred in the administration of levy program expenditure, and which are identifiable and attributable to a specific levy investment fund (for example, costs around direct relationship, marketing and fund management, and logistical costs around industry advisory meetings and activities). From 2018/19 these costs will be charged at cost on a monthly basis.

For more information explaining the costs in the financial summary, visit www.bit.ly/2x7ERLC.

Hort Innovation

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited
ACN 602 100 149
Level 8, 1 Chifley Square
Sydney NSW 2000
Telephone 02 8295 2300
www.horticulture.com.au