

Melon 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 melon levy, Australian Government contributions and, in some instances, co-contributions from a variety of sources.



SUMMARY BY
BRAD MILLS,
RELATIONSHIP
MANAGER,
HORT INNOVATION

We're for growers

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

With **more than \$282,000 invested by Hort Innovation into R&D for the melon industry during 2017/18**, including into several new projects, I'm happy to be able to share with you all the key insights in this Hort Innovation Melon 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**. Being the first full financial year the industry's levy was in effect, highlights of initial Melon Fund investments include work to strengthen food safety, provide access to safe and effective chemicals, and help growers access and implement best practice, new knowledge and current technologies.

On a personal note, thank you for welcoming me as your new Relationship Manager. I know that during 2017/18 my predecessor, Sam Turner, enjoyed getting to connect with you about everything going on in the Melon 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 bradley.mills@horticulture.com.au or on 0408 635 465 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 Melon Fund. The latest edition is always available from the Melon Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/melon, while members have *Hortlink* sent straight to their inboxes.
- » **Engage with your industry development and communications program.** The investment *Melon industry development and communication* (VM17001) is dedicated to bringing the latest information and advice to growers, including news, outcomes and resources related to levy investments. The program is funded through the Hort Innovation Melon Fund and delivered by industry development manager Dianne Fullelove, with more info available on **p4**.

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

Brad Mills
Melon Relationship Manager, Hort Innovation
(e) bradley.mills@horticulture.com.au (m) 0408 635 465

Making levy investments

Discover how the melon levy and Australian Government contributions are invested through the Hort Innovation Melon 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'!

Hort Innovation is currently working closely with the melon industry to produce a finalised Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Melon Fund. When completed, the SIP will outline key industry priorities for investment.

It is anticipated the SIP will be released in the near future, and will then be used like a 'roadmap' by the melon Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP). The SIAP is 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 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/melon.

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 Melon Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/melon. *Hortlink* also provides updates on ongoing and recently completed investments.

The industry development and communications program, run through the investment *Melon industry development and communication* (VM17001), also provides regular information on levy-funded activity. See **p4** for more.

R&D project list 2017/18

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18

VM16000	Melon industry minor use program
VM17000	2018 Australian melon industry conference and field days
VM17001	Melon industry development and communication
VM17002	Food safety, training, extension and capacity for the melon industry
MT15033	Strategic Investment Plan
ST16008	AgVet collaborative forum
ST17007	Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018*

INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN 2017/18

VM12003	Development of the Australian melon industry through communication and market focused activity^
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* Activities for the melon industry under this investment are funded wholly through the government's AgVet grant program.

^ This investment ran prior to the melon levy and the official Hort Innovation Melon Fund, being funded using voluntary contributions and Australian Government funding under the original Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

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 levy investments in the Hort Innovation Melon Fund during 2017/18. Any resources from 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 (VM17002)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: NSW Department of Primary Industries

Contracted in May 2018, this investment is intended to strengthen the food safety systems of the Australian melon industry, by supporting the adoption of best practice across the supply chain. It is working to strengthen knowledge and the adoption of strong safety practices throughout the industry by facilitating training activities across the country for rockmelon growers, farm managers and key farm staff, while also delivering a best practice 'toolbox' with essential food safety information and resources.



Melon industry development and communication (VM17001)

NEW IN 2017/18

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.

The industry development manager's role is a broad one, including the production and maintenance of core communication channels including...

- » Monthly *Melon Enews* emails
- » The industry's quarterly newsletter, *Melon News*, which is distributed in hard copy form and also available online
- » The Australian Melon Association website, with the industry area (www.melonsaustralia.org.au/industry-area) holding news, information and resources for growers
- » The Australian Melon Association's Facebook page
- » Fact sheets, as needed.

The 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. Similarly, the project assists in the running of industry conferences and field days.

The industry development manager's role also includes working closely with researchers and government agencies to support the sharing of information, maintain industry plans, foster collaboration between research projects and more.

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/melon.



2018 Australian melon industry conference and field days (VM17000)

NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Australian Melon Association

This investment facilitated the 2018 Australian Melon Industry Conference & Field Days, held from September 17 to 20, 2018. The event was intended to help growers access and share knowledge, including the latest technical and practical information, and provided an opportunity for connecting with supply chain partners and research providers. Look for learnings and recaps from the event to be shared in industry channels.

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

NEW IN 2017/18

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 Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority 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, along with levy contributions, to generate the data required for a range of registration and minor use applications across a variety of horticulture crops, including for the melon industry (with work for melons being funded wholly through the grant).

Melon industry minor use program (VM16000)

Key research provider: Hort Innovation

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

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.

Connect with
Hort Innovation!
Become a member
at **www.horticulture.com.au/membership**

Financial statement

Financial operating statement 2017/18

	R&D (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	247,684	247,684
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	914,717	914,717
Australian Government money	179,324	179,324
Other income*	14,474	14,474
TOTAL INCOME	1,108,515	1,108,515
Project funding	282,770	282,770
Consultation with and advice from growers	21,005	21,005
Service delivery – Base	12,553	12,553
Service delivery – Shared	19,008	19,008
Service delivery – Fund specific	23,312	23,312
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	358,648	358,648
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	7,671	7,671
CLOSING BALANCE	989,879	989,879
Levy collection costs	6,486	6,486

* 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