

Processing Tomato Fund

2017/18
ANNUAL REPORT

The Hort Innovation Processing Tomato Fund and the industry's voluntary levy

The processing tomato collective industry fund (CIF), which is now known as the Hort Innovation Processing Tomato Fund, brings together financial contributions from the processing tomato industry – collected as a voluntary levy – and allows access to Australian Government contributions, for investment into R&D projects. These projects are intended to improve industry productivity and profitability, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry.

The processing tomato industry has set producer contributions to the CIF at a rate of 0.5 per cent of gross value of production.

Hort Innovation – as the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australia's horticulture industry – is responsible for strategically investing the voluntary levy and government contributions into R&D for the Australian processing tomato industry.

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 voluntary 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 investment decisions made?

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

Hort Innovation has been working closely with the processing tomato industry to finalise a Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) for the Processing Tomato Fund. When completed, the SIP will outline key industry priorities for investment.

The completed SIP, expected to be released for early 2019, will be used like a 'roadmap' by the processing tomato industry's Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP). The SIAP is a panel made up of tomato processors 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 voluntary levy investments. The first meeting of the processing tomato SIAP took place in October of 2017/18.

Details of the SIAP panellists and summaries of the SIAP's meetings can be found on the Hort Innovation Processing Tomato Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/processing-tomato.

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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 across all industries 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.

Investments in 2017/18

The voluntary processing tomato levy was not invested into R&D projects during 2017/18.

It is anticipated that the inaugural voluntary levy investment for the Processing Tomato Fund will be a capacity building project, to be established during 2018/19. It is expected that this new project will support the role and activities of an industry development manager – following in the vein of a previous industry project that was funded by contributions from the Australia Processing Tomato Research Council under the previous iteration of Hort Innovation, Horticulture Australia Limited.

How can I keep track of future investments in the Processing Tomato Fund?

Newly contracted projects are announced in Hort Innovation's quarterly Hortlink publication, with the latest edition emailed directly to members and always available from the Processing Tomato Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/processing-tomato. Hortlink will also provide updates on ongoing and recently completed investments as projects in the Processing Tomato Fund progress.



How can I connect with Hort Innovation?

► Reach out to your Hort Innovation Relationship Manager.

Sam Turner is the processing tomato industry's Relationship Manager at Hort Innovation. He can be reached on 0418 164 717 or at sam.turner@horticulture.com.au if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything related to the Hort Innovation Processing Tomato Fund.

► Become a Hort Innovation member.

Paying a voluntary 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.