

Almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: June 14, 2016

Attendance: Brendan Sidhu, Ross Skinner, Craig Simes, Ben Brown, Troy Richman, Paul Martin, Toby Smith, Dominic Cavallaro, Michael Clark, Neil Burgess, Corrine Jasper, Robert Granger

Location: Mildura

Next Meeting: TBA

Overview

Hort Innovation provided an induction for panel members outlining the objectives, governance and scope of operation of the panel. An overview of the Hort Innovation funding model, innovation process and procurement framework was also provided. The panel then participated in a brief discussion on the new funding model and the availability of matching funds for the almond program.

The panel discussed the process for developing the next Australian Almond Strategic Industry Plan (SIP) with consultant Michael Clark (AgEconPlus Pty Ltd) and the benefits of projects undertaken in recent years. The panel also made recommendations on next steps for consulting with industry for the Strategic Investment Plan over the coming months. A draft of the SIP to be presented at the upcoming Conference in November

The panel discussed the industry's short-term investment priorities with a number of concepts discussed and proposed for future investment including the communications program, industry development, breeding, physical defects attributed to moisture over time on kernel meats within the supply chain, educating health professionals and export market development.

Next steps

Michael Clark will broadly consult with industry and include the opportunity for all growers to participate in and provide feedback on the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) via a survey through Almond Board Australia communications.

A draft of the SIP is to be presented at the upcoming conference in November.

Anyone seeking information about the SIAP or the SIP should contact Corrine Jasper, see details below.

Contact

Relationship Manager: Corrine Jasper

M: 0439 433 885

E: Corrine.Jasper@horticulture.com.au