

Onion Fund Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

Date: 17 October 2018

Attendance: Cath Botta, Tony Higgs, Steve Rathjen, Kees Versteeg, Peter Shadbolt, Sam Turner, Samantha Ferguson, Jenny Van de Meeberg.

Location: Devonport, Tasmania

Next Meeting: 30 April 2019

Overview

The purpose of this meeting was to:

1. To provide an updated onion fund financial forecast to panel members
2. To provide an overview and analysis of the overall investment program and alignment of projects to the strategic investment plan
3. To review concepts received by Hort Innovation.

Hort Innovation provided an update on a number of topics including the appointment of the new Hort Innovation CEO, Matt Brand, outcomes of the GHD review, and the appointment of the new onion relationship manager Sam Turner.

The SIAP were provided an update on the current levy financials, including a forecast for the next 5 years and a summary of the alignment of the current investments against the onion strategic investment plan.

The panel was then provided an update of recent trade activity and advised on concepts that were produced during the recent onion export reference group meeting.

The SIAP was then provided a comprehensive marketing update, including the activity plan for 2018/2019 as well as a number of marketing concepts.

Lastly, the SIAP provided Hort Innovation advice on a number of concepts including industry data, extension, IPM and herbicide concepts.

Next steps

Hort Innovation will proceed to contract a number of export projects as advised by the panel. The next SIAP meeting will be held in late April.

Contact

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