



Welcome

R&D Insights is a new insert to keep you up to date with the latest levy-funded R&D projects within the Australian olive industry, which happen under the Hort Innovation Olive Fund. It will also include info on other research and resources to help the industry remain strong and vibrant.

Back to basics

What is the olive levy?

The olive levy is payable on olives that are produced in Australia and either sold by the producer, or used by the producer in the production of other goods. The levy rate on olives is \$3.10 per tonne.

Agricultural levies are set by the Australian Government at the request of industry in order to collectively fund R&D, biosecurity, residue testing and, in some cases, marketing programs.

In 2015/16 total olive R&D levy receipts were approximately \$332,000.

Who manages the olive levy?

The olive levy is collected by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, which is also responsible for administration and disbursement of levies on behalf of agricultural industries.

The investment of R&D funds (\$3 per tonne) is managed by Hort Innovation, the not-for-profit, grower-owned Research and Development Corporation (RDC) for Australia's \$9.5 billion horticulture industry.

Here, olive levy funds are invested into industry-specific research programs alongside financial contributions from the Australian Government.

Separately, Plant Health Australia (PHA) manages certain plant health programs on behalf of industry (using a \$0.10 per tonne component of the levy).

How are R&D levy funds invested?

Firstly, olive growers and other industry stakeholders are always encouraged to submit ideas for potential investment via Hort Innovation's Concept Proposal Form at www.horticulture.com.au/concept-proposal-form, providing a simple summary of the aims and outcomes.

To help ensure R&D investment decisions are balanced and prioritised by the current needs of the industry, Hort Innovation has established an olive Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP). The SIAP is skills-based and comprises levy-paying growers, processors and technical experts. The make-up of the current SIAP can be found on Hort Innovation's

Olive Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/grower-focus/olive. It is the role of the SIAP to provide advice on potential investment opportunities, always being guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (read on for more on this).

Project ideas are filtered and shaped into full proposals by Hort Innovation based on SIAP advice and to ensure that they align with strategic priorities. If a concept proposal is successful, a Request for Proposal document is drafted and Hort Innovation notifies prospective service providers using a limited or open procurement process, depending on the project requirements. Prospective service providers then have a bid period in which they can submit their response. After the bid period has ended, Hort Innovation convenes an evaluation panel to review the responses and then Hort Innovation works to contract the service provider it approves to undertake the work. *continued on pg2*



Have your say!

To submit a project idea, visit:
www.horticulture.com.au/concept-proposal-form



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Setting the strategic direction

The Olive Strategic Investment Plan 2017–2021 (SIP) is an investment roadmap for the Olive Fund. It outlines the priorities for R&D, helping to guide decisions on projects to be funded by the olive levy.

The SIP was developed in close consultation with the olive industry, and the SIAP is guided by the priorities set out in the plan.

The full SIP document and an at-a-glance summary document can be downloaded from the Hort Innovation Olive Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/grower-focus/olive. Read more about the strategic direction of the industry in the next edition of *Olivegrower & Processor*.

Growing a stronger industry

Hort Innovation has partnered with leading service providers to complete a range of R&D projects to ensure the long-term sustainability and profitability of the olive industry.

R&D projects have played an important role in providing information and insights to Australian growers and processors to help them

improve management practices and to bolster their businesses.

Recently completed projects:

- *Evaluation of key chemicals for pest management in the olive industry* (OL13002)
- *Generation of residue data for pesticide minor-use permit applications in Olives 2014/15* (OL14006)
- *Review and development of olive Industry Biosecurity Plan (IBP)* (OL14008)

Some of the current projects:

- *Australian olive oil code of practice implementation* (OL13007)
- *Olive industry minor use program* (OL16000)
- *Generation of residue, efficacy and crop safety data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2017* (ST16006)
- *Australian olive industry benchmarking program* (OL16001)
- *Olive industry pre-harvest water and oil quality testing* (OL16005)
- *Olive oil food service program* (OL16004)

To keep up to date with current projects and completed project findings, be sure to see Hort Innovation's quarterly Hortlink publication, accessible from the Olive Fund page, and the Olive Fund page itself.



More information

To chat about olive industry R&D investments, please contact Will Gordon, the relationship manager for the olive industry at Hort Innovation, at will.gordon@horticulture.com.au or on 0427 920 924

To submit a project idea, or for more information, visit www.horticulture.com.au/concept-proposal-form

Find out more about Hort Innovation, the olive SIAP and olive investments see www.horticulture.com.au/grower-focus/olive

