# Lychee Fund







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The projects in this report have been funded by Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited using sources including the lychee levy, Australian Government contributions and, in some instances, co-contributions from a variety of sources.



SUMMARY BY
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# We're for growers

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

With some \$107,000 invested by Hort Innovation into R&D for the lychee 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 Lychee 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. Just some of the highlights include the delivery of new market insights and consumer data, the conclusion of the three-year pilot program for lychees into the US and more.

Meanwhile in marketing, the Lychee Fund program saw more than \$32,000 invested during the year to raise the profile and consumption of Australian lychees. Find an overview of this activity from p10.

On a personal note, thank you for welcoming me as your new Relationship Manager during the course of the year. Both I and your previous contact, Astrid Hughes, enjoyed getting to connect with you about everything going on in the Lychee Fund, and getting to hear your thoughts and share ideas. During 2018/19 I'm looking forward to even more opportunities to connect in person, and I remind you that you can reach me any time at <a href="mailto:christian.patterson@horticulture.com.au">christian.patterson@horticulture.com.au</a> or on 0433 896 753 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 Lychee Fund. The latest edition is always available from the Lychee Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/lychee, while members have Hortlink sent straight to their inboxes.
- Engage with your industry communications program. The Australian lychee industry communications program (LY16005) is dedicated to bringing the latest information and advice to growers, including news, outcomes and resources related to levy investments (look for the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund logo to easily identify work related to your levy). The communications program is funded through the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund, with more info available on p4.

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



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# Making levy investments

Discover how the lychee levy and Australian Government contributions are invested through the Hort Innovation Lychee 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 and marketing 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, in the case of R&D, 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'!

Investments specific to the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund are guided by the industry's Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), which was finalised by Hort Innovation in April 2017 after close consultation with growers and other industry stakeholders.

The SIP outlines key industry priorities for investment and can be found on the Lychee Fund page at www.horticulture.com. au/lychee.

The SIP document is used like a 'roadmap' by the lychee Strategic Investment Advisory Panel (SIAP) – 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, with the SIP guiding them, in order 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 <a href="https://www.horticulture.com.au/lychee">www.horticulture.com.au/lychee</a>.

#### 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 <a href="https://www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners">www.horticulture.com.au/delivery-partners</a>.

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 Lychee Fund page at <a href="https://www.horticulture.com.au/lychee">www.horticulture.com.au/lychee</a>. Hortlink also provides updates on ongoing and recently completed investments.

The industry communications program, run through the investment *Australian lychee industry communications program* (LY16005), also provides regular information on levy-funded activity. See **p4** for more.

# R&D project list 2017/18

NEW INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18				
LY16003	Grower guide for lychee grading			
LY16005	Australian lychee industry communications program			
LY17001	Lychee knowledge transfer at the 2018 China litchi conference			
MT17002	Tropical fruit export strategy			
MT17015	Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce			
ST16008	AgVet collaborative forum			
ST17000	Generation of data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2018			

ONGOING INVESTMENTS IN 2017/18			
LY16000	Lychee industry minor use program		
LY16002	Treatment for mites on lychee fruit after irradiation for improved market access		
ST16006	Generation of residue, efficacy and crop safety data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops		

INVESTMENTS COMPLETED IN 2017/18			
LY15001	US market access project		
MT13061	Understanding the purchase behaviour of fresh produce consumers		
MT15032	Monitoring and evaluation framework for the industry Strategic Investment Plan		
MT15033	Strategic Investment Plan		



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 <a href="www.horticulture.com.au/across-horticulture">www.horticulture.com.au/across-horticulture</a> for financial documents and information on this program.



# **R&D** report

Take a closer look at some of the key investments in the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund during 2017/18. Any resources from these and other levy-funded projects – such as fact sheets, guides and more – are published on your grower page at www.horticulture.com.au/lychee as they become available..

#### Tropical fruit export strategy (MT17002)

#### NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: McKINNA et al

This investment was tasked with developing individual export strategies for a range of tropical commodities including lychee, persimmon, papaya, passionfruit and banana, feeding into an overarching export strategy for Australian tropical fruit.

The Lychee Industry Export Market Development Strategy was released during May 2018, with its top-level overview of trade opportunities and considerations available from Hort Innovation at www.bit.ly/2Lkek7e in a brief market mapping report.

Some quick takeaways...

- » Research shows lychee exports have the potential to reach 630 tonnes by 2023, which would represent 23 per cent of current production
- » The best prospect markets for Australian lychees include New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and the US
- » Australian lychees have competitive advantages when it comes to export, including the longest supply window in the world, from October to April
- » Challenges include shelf life and temperature sensitivity of the fruit, as well as the size of the industry and volume of fruit produced in Australia.

Following the market mapping findings, the next steps involve Hort Innovation working with industry to determine the appetite for levy investment in the export space and to subsequently roll out any trade-related R&D activities.

# Australian lychee industry communications program (LY16005)

#### **NEW IN 2017/18**

Key research provider: Fruit Tree Media

Beginning in August 2017 to carry on from previous communications work, this investment ensures Australian lychee growers remain up to date with the latest R&D, marketing and other relevant information and issues related to the industry. Project activities include the production of journal *Living Lychee* and its distribution to the Australian Lychee Growers Association mailing list, plus the updating and maintenance of the industry website (www.australianlychee.com.au) with practical content, news and other key information for growers.

#### Grower guide for lychee grading (LY16003)

#### NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Australian Lychee Growers Association

Beginning in September 2017 and finishing in May 2018, this short project was tasked with bringing together the various lychee grading standards in existence, to formulate an overall guide for Australian lychee growers. The completed guide can be downloaded and printed from the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund page at www.horticulture.com.au/lychee.

The new resource outlines the industry's handling requirements for pre-harvest and post harvest fruit, the grading specifications for first grade, premium and export fruit, and the specifications for fruit into second-grade cartons. It also included images and information on various defects and pest damage affecting lychees, and subsequent grading requirements. The guide's implementation will ensure the lychee industry is able to consistently present good-quality fruit to domestic and export markets and consumers.

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/lychee.



# Consumer behavioural and retail data for fresh produce (MT17015)

#### NEW IN 2017/18

Key research provider: Nielsen

Contracted in June 2018, this multi-industry investment is tasked with providing regular consumer behaviour data and insight reporting to a range of industries, including the lychee industry. This information is intended to assist growers and supply chain partners in decision-making for their businesses and, for the wider industry, the data and insights will be available to support strategic activities, as well as Hort Innovation Lychee Fund marketing plans.

At the time of writing, the data and insights were soon to be easily accessible via a new online dashboard – look for further information in industry and Hort Innovation channels as it becomes available.

This project represents an evolution of previous investment Understanding the purchase behaviour of fresh produce consumers (MT13061).

#### **US market access project (LY15001)**

#### NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Australian Lychee Growers Association

With Australian lychees given the green light to enter the mainland United States in 2013 (with the exception of Florida), this three-year pilot program was tasked with opening up this new export market. It involved a range of work, including...

- » Developing grower guides on pests and diseases of quarantine concern, as well as chemicals and maximum residue limits
- » Developing pest monitoring guides
- » Sourcing and submitting packaging approval with relevant authorities
- » Grower registration and auditing for those wishing to export to the US
- » Chemical access work.

In working to streamline the export of lychees to the US, the investment saw two successful shipments of lychees in both year two and three of the program, with some 800 cartons of lychees (three times the volume exported the previous season) readied for auditing and inspection by the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources in the final year of the pilot.

Grower guides relating to export to the US remain available through the Australian Lychee Growers Association, as do resources for pest monitors.

# Treatment for mites on lychee fruit after irradiation for improved market access (LY16002)

#### NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE

**Key research provider:** The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries

This investment begun during 2017 and ended in the initial months of 2018/19. It was tasked with investigating ways to remove a potential barrier in the export of Australian lychees to the US: the presence of common pest the lychee erinose mite (Aceria litchii).

Irradiation rates in the current protocol for export to the US are not able to kill this mite, and higher rates would damage the fruit. As a result, the project investigated alternative treatments to reliably control the pest, such as post-harvest paraffinic oil dips and sprays, and fumigation approaches.

The project's trials found paraffinic oil dipping and spraying to reduce the incidence of surface mites and other insects on lychee fruit, though 100 per cent elimination of pests was not achieved. Oil dips were found to increase the development of surface fungi on the fruit, however high-volume flood spraying for oil application appeared to eliminate this issue. Meanwhile, washing fruit before and/or two minutes after oil application was found to further reduce the incidence of surface pests.

Through this work, the project team developed a prototype in-line roller spray unit, including a flood-spray unit for applying oil and high pressure, high volume water sprays for precleaning and post-oil-application cleaning. Trials with the prototype significantly reduced the count of live mites relative to a standard packing system – though the two-minute lag time between oil application and washing did impact on packing rates.



#### Lychee knowledge transfer at the 2018 China litchi conference (LY17001)

#### NEW IN 2017/18 & NOW COMPLETE

Key research provider: Australian Lychee Growers Association

This investment supported attendance of Australian lychee industry representatives at the 2018 China International Litchi Business Conference, held in Guangzhou from June 27 to 30, and its surrounding activities. This was an opportunity to maintain an open dialogue, joint communication and ties with China, to keep trade and market access discussions progressing.

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

#### NEW IN 2017/18

**Key research provider:** Eurofins Agroscience Services and 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. Under this project, 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 lychee industry.

Similarly, data generation is also undertaken by the project Generation of residue, efficacy and crop safety data for pesticide applications in horticulture crops 2017 (ST16006) which involves grant funds from an earlier around of the AgVet program, plus some levy contributions.

## Lychee industry minor use program (LY16000)

Key research provider: Hort Innovation

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

For more on minor use permits, including a list of permits, see **p8**.

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.



Full details of completed research can be found in project final reports which, when finalised, are available to order at **www.horticulture.com.au/final-report-order-form**. Final reports are free to Australian horticulture levy payers, registered Hort Innovation members and industry representative bodies.



# Minor use permits

#### Why minor use permits?

While the use of pesticides and other chemicals in the horticulture industry is being modified through the increasing uptake of integrated pest management approaches, there remains a need for the strategic use of specific chemicals.

Chemical companies submit use patterns for product label registrations to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) – however the lychee industry is generally provided with limited label registrations because of its 'minor' crop status in this area (meaning the chemical companies can consider the market size too small to generate adequate commercial returns, based on the R&D investment required). This is where minor use permits come into play. The APVMA's national permit system adds some flexibility to the approval process and provides a legal framework that can allow access to products for minor use purposes.

#### **Permits in 2017/18**

During the 2017/18 financial year, a successful application for new permit PER85397 and a successful renewal for PER14099 were prepared by Hort Innovation and submitted to the APVMA, facilitated through the *Lychee industry minor use program* (LY16000).

Meanwhile, a renewals for permit PER13659 was also issued during 2017/18, with the application submitted through the industry minor use program in the previous financial year. See details for all of these permits in the table below.

#### **Current permits**

Below is a list of minor use permits for the lychee industry, current as of September 1, 2018.

PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER12450 version 6	Trichlorfon / Specified fruit crops / Fruit fly	06-Oct-11	31-Jan-21	Growcom
PER80374 version 2	Beta-cyfluthrin (Bulldock) / Custard apple, lychee, mango, persimmon / Various insect pests	01-Oct-15	31-Aug-22	Australian Lychee Growers Association (ALGA)
PER80367	Pyraclostrobin (Cabrio) / Lychee / Anthracnose or pepper spot	12-May-15	31-Oct-25	ALGA
PER13158 version 9	Dimethoate / Specified citrus and tropical Fruit commodities (inedible peel, post-harvest) / Various fruit fly species	06-Oct-11	06-Mar-19	Hort Innovation
PER13659 version 2	Mancozeb / Lychee / Pepper spot	01-Oct-12	30-Sep-22	ALGA C/Hort Innovation
PER13660 version 2	Copper hydroxide and cuprous oxide / Lychee / Lychee pepper spot	14-Aug-12	30-Jun-22	ALGA C/Hort Innovation
PER14099 version 2	Methidathion / Lychee / Mealybug, nutborer, planthopper, scale, leafhoppers and fruit spotting bug (NB: This product has current supply issues and is under review)	01-Jul-13	30-Jun-23	ALGA C/ Hort Innovation
PER14508 version 2	Sulphur (Granusulf 800WG) / Lychee / Erinose mite and white louse scale	21-Mar-14	30-Nov-21	ALGA C/Hort Innovation



PERMIT ID	DESCRIPTION (CHEMICAL/CROP/PEST OR USE)	ORIGINAL DATE OF ISSUE	EXPIRY DATE	PERMIT HOLDER
PER14507 version 2	Petroleum oil / Lychee / Green shield scale, soft green scale and soft scales	21-Mar-14	30-Nov-21	ALGA C/Hort Innovation
PER14743 version 2	Trichlorfon / Custard apple, lychee, mango, persimmon / Flatid planthopper, flower eating caterpillar, looper and yellow peach moth; Suppression only: fruit-spotting bug, banana spotting bug, green vegetable bug and lychee stink bug	01-Jun-14	30-Jun-20	Growcom
PER13859	Dimethoate / Orchard clean-up — fruit fly host crops following harvest / Fruit fly	09-Feb-15	31-Jul-24	Growcom
PER80369	Prochloraz (Octave) / Lychee / Anthracnose or pepper spot	17-Mar-15	31-Oct-25	ALGA
PER80366	Buprofezin (Applaud) / Lychee / Scale insects, mealybug and flatid planthopper	12-May-15	31-Mar-20	ALGA
PER80539 version 2	Abamectin / Lychee / Two-spotted mite and Litchi erinose mite	08-Jul-15	31-Jul-19	ALGA
PER82879	Cyprodinil + Fludioxonil (Switch Fungicide) / Lychee / Lychee pepper spot, Anthracnose	03-Nov-16	30-Nov-19	ALGA
PER85397	Sulfoxaflor (Transform) / Lychee, mango, papaya, passionfruit (field grown) / Fruit-spotting bug and banana-spotting bug	17-Apr-18	30-Apr-23	Hort Innovation
PER81753	Ethephon (Ethrel) / Lychee / Seasonal vegetative flushes	05-Apr-16	31-Mar-19	ALGA

All efforts have been made to provide the most current, complete and accurate information on these permits, however you should always confirm all details on the APVMA website at portal.apvma.gov.au/permits. Details of the conditions of use associated with these permits can also be found on the APVMA site.

Minor use permit updates are circulated in Hort Innovation's e-newsletter, *Growing Innovation*, which levy-paying members receive monthly. Not a member? Sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/membership.



# **Marketing report**

Hort Innovation is responsible for investing the lychee marketing levy into a range of activities to drive awareness and consumption of the fruit, under the Hort Innovation Lychee Fund. Read on for a snapshot of activities and results from the 2017/18 marketing program.

The 2017/18 campaign was the first in a new three-year strategy for the industry, building on the celebration of lychees and the 'loving lychee' campaign of previous years. The focus in year one was using social media to drive inspiration and traditional media – via public relations activity – to drive education.

There was also work with photographer, food stylist and foodie influencer Jennifer Jenner to create beautiful new lychee assets for industry marketing, including a five-image series with tips and usage ideas and a 'three ways with Australian lychees' video. These assets were used to pitch lychee content to media, and shared through the industry's social channels.



Social media activity is a great use for a small budget, being a cost-efficient way to reach the masses (an opportunity previously only available via 'above the line' media such as television and newspapers), and also to 'keep a finger on the pulse' in terms of how people are consuming lychees, answering any questions they have, and giving people an opportunity to simply share their love of lychees.

Using content that was both created specifically for the campaign and curated from other sources, the Aussie Lychee social channels celebrated 'Summer Time', 'Me Time' and 'Party Time' over the season. Over the course of this campaign, more than 707,000 people were reached with lychee inspiration, tips and more on the Aussie Lychees Facebook page, with the number of fans of the page growing by 17 per cent, to close to 25,000. Through the Aussie Lychees Instagram account, more than 13,120 people were reached.





#### **Instagram competition**

To generate additional social activity and gain quality lychee images to repurpose in the Aussie Lychee social channels, there was the launch of a '#lycheelover' competition involving social media influencers. A benefit of engaging these influencers is that they are authentic – it's not about trying to 'sell' to consumers, but rather educating and inspiring in an organic way.

Influencers were asked to share their #lycheelove on social media to win a \$200 VISA gift card and a lychee hamper. Participants delivered beautiful images, reaching more than 119,000 people combined. The Fresh Prince of Produce was the competition winner. He uploaded an entire gallery of a lychee feast, including a lychee pickled taco salsa, lychee margarita and lychee green salad.





#### **Public relations**

There was outreach to Australian media to help drive education and inspiration through high-reaching coverage. This involved circulation of a media release announcing the season, plus the provision of tips for selecting, storing and peeling lychees, and inspiring ideas for eating them.

All media coverage positioned lychees as the ultimate summertime celebration fruit. Coverage was secured in three ways:

- » Lychee hampers in the shape of Christmas trees were sent to 10 top-tier media outlets
- » Summertime media outreach continued throughout the campaign

» There was outreach around Chinese New Year, tapping into the popularity of lychees around this celebration.

Over the course of the campaign, 42 pieces of coverage were secured across traditional and social media, with a total reach of 8.6 million people.

Highlights included an article in *The Herald Sun*, which has a reach of more than one million, and coverage in popular magazine *New Idea*, which has a reach of more than 1.5 million.







# **Financial statement**

Financial operating statement 2017/18

	R&D (\$)	MARKETING (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June	2017/18 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	108,403	3,315	111,718
Levies from growers (net of collection costs)	106,741	48,685	155,426
Australian Government money	75,617	_	75,617
Other income*	2,497	-247	2,250
TOTAL INCOME	184,855	48,438	233,293
Project funding	107,003	32,164	139,167
Consultation with and advice from growers	19,645	3,886	23,531
Service delivery – Base	5,233	1,490	6,723
Service delivery – Shared	7,925	2,256	10,181
Service delivery – Fund specific	11,428	2,767	14,194
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	151,234	42,562	193,797
Levy contribution to across-industry activity	3,198	-	3,198
CLOSING BALANCE	138,825	9,191	148,017
Levy collection costs	2,795	1,104	3,899

At the end of 2016/17, the industry's pro rata share of levy funds were committed to strategic reserves (\$15,133 for R&D and \$7450 for marketing), and so have been deducted from the 2017/18 opening balance.

#### 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.

<sup>\*</sup> Interest, royalties

## Hort Innovation

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