

Application Template for Collective Industry Funds

The following criteria will be used to assess whether a Collective Industry Fund (CIF) will be recognised and established by Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) for a sector:

- A. The voluntary levy is for a single horticultural product supported on a national basis. As with statutory levies, a CIF will not be considered by production system, supply chain activity or geographic region.
- B. The majority of industry by value, and a significant proportion of industry by volume (as assessed and determined individually by the Hort Innovation Board), voluntarily and regularly contribute to the fund.
- C. A transparent and standard formula is used for the purpose of calculating the contribution and the contribution is collected with regular frequency.
- D. A central body receives the contributions for coordination and consolidation. That body should have appropriate risk and governance systems in place. The monies are then forwarded to the appropriate Hort Innovation Fund for investment
- E. Investments are made in accordance with a strategic Research and Development (R&D) investment plan agreed by industry and Hort Innovation. This plan should span three (3) to five (5) years and incorporate a diversity of programs that demonstrate benefit across the breadth of that industry.

The following template can be used as the basis for an application to Hort Innovation to recognise and establish an industry sector's voluntary levies as a Collective Industry Fund in Pool 1.

Scope of the Collective Industry Fund

- *Specify the horticultural product(s), or a class or subclass of horticultural products, upon which voluntary levy is collected.*
- *Provide data that demonstrates that the voluntary levy is collected on national basis.*
- *Estimated value of annual investment to be raised.*
- *Explain how utilising the CIF will benefit voluntary levy payers and the industry nationally.*

Validation of Widespread Grower Support

- *Provide evidence that substantiates the number of growers supportive of the CIF application including value and volume contribution.*
- *Provide any supporting material that verifies that there is significant support of the growers of the specified product and that they are contributing to the fund, and ensuring an equitable balance of production volume is represented.*

Voluntary Levy Collection Methodology and Governance

- *Explain the levy collection process including:*
 - *the formula for calculation*
 - *how the central body receives contributions for coordination and consolidation.*
- *Illustrate the appropriate risk and governance systems underpinning the collection of the voluntary levy and expenditure.*
- *Demonstrate how the voluntary levy payers see return on their investment.*
- *Highlight how voluntary levy payers can contribute or provide feedback on the investment priorities.*

Strategic Investment Plan

- *Provide evidence of a planning approach that identifies and articulates the strategic need for which the sector voluntary levy (along with Commonwealth matching funds) is in place and seeks to address.*
- *Indicate how the sector investment priorities align to the that of the industry, Hort Innovation and the Government R&D Priorities.*