

Almond Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2024/25



Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Almond Fund in 2024/25 can be found below. Each year, almond industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the almond Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). At these meetings, the panels are provided with a financial forecast and an investment analysis of current investments. Based on this information, they provide Hort Innovation with advice on priorities for investment for the upcoming year.

The almond R&D advisory panel met on July 4, 2023, September 19, 2023, November 15, 2023, and March 1, 2024, to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2024/25. The R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1 below.

Note: Investments will be aligned to form multi-industry projects where possible, and all investments are subject to funding availability. If investments do not occur in this financial year, they will be reconsidered and reprioritised for the almond Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2025/26.

Table 1. Almond R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2024/25

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Growing almond leaders	3. Extension and capability	1. Leadership initiatives
2	Grower international study tour	3. Extension and capability	1. Trusted relationships 2. Leadership initiatives
3	Almond biosecurity plan	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1. Improved resilience to biosecurity threats

Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Almond Fund as at July 1, 2024, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the almond SIP, can be seen in Table 2. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

Table 2. Current contracted R&D project actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
AL16002	Almond industry minor use program		1,000	1,000	1,000
AL19001	Almond Industry Innovation and Adoption Program	380,074			
AL20001	Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production – Stage 3	47,767	143,301	95,534	119,421
AL20005	Pathway to carbon neutral life cycle analysis (LCA) in almond orchards.	72,130			
AL21000	Pathway to carbon neutral whole orchard recycling (WOR) in almond orchards.	112,380	96,124		
AL21001	Rootstock compatibility and density optimisation trials.	280,000	280,000	280,000	413,175
AL21004	Cover crops for soil health and productivity	63,326	63,326	63,326	63,326
AL22000	Evaluating self-fertile varieties in block plantings for Australian almond growers	100,794	67,196	67,196	67,196
AL22001	Almond industry innovation and adoption program	400,000	772,988	772,988	772,988
AL22002	An integrated disease management program for the Australian almond industry	486,882	486,882	486,882	486,882
AL22003	An integrated Pest management program for the Australian almond industry	687,324	745,110	703,116	571,168
AL22007	Almond industry statistics and data collection 2023-2025	55,920	55,920	83,880	
AL22008	Australian almond industry communications and industry events	176,000	176,000	176,000	176,000

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
AL22009	Australia Almond Variety Evaluation Program	110,541	221,082	221,082	221,082
AL23000	Almond Centre of Excellence Maintenance Program for trials	630,786	598,574	586,294	579,999
AL23001	Enabling the pathway to sustainable best practice management	88,000	165,250	126,626	63,312
AL23002	Technical review of National Almond Breeding and Evaluation Program	10,641			
AL23003	Growing almond leaders		177,753	108,200	108,200
AL23004	Almond industry international study tour		90,000	40,000	46,847
AS18000	National tree crop intensification in horticulture	365,440	411,120		
MT20007	Regulatory support and response coordination	4,662	6,993		
MT21004	Consumer behavioral retail data	2,800	8,489	5,659	6,815
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	60,846	60,847		
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	8,588	7,418		
MT21202	Consumer usage and attitude research program	7,640			
MT22000	Hort Innovation Annual Report 2021/22	2,856			
MT22005	Horticulture trade data 2022-2025	14,932	15,456		
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	5,837	5,837		
MT23002	Fund Annual Reports 2022/23	245			
MT23005	One Basin CRC	96,250	55,000	55,000	55,000
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking FY23/24	15,483	3,888		
PH17001	Development of non-invasive methods and systems for the assessment of hive health	58,697			
Total		4,346,841	4,715,554	3,872,783	3,752,411

Financial statements

Financial statements for the almond R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 3 below.

View the current and most up-to-date financial statements for the Almond Fund at the Hort Innovation website [here](#).

Table 3: Almond R&D levy fund actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27 (as at July 1, 2024)

	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
Opening Balance	663,430	545,007	273,445	263,245
Levies from growers	2,397,926	2,700,000	3,200,000	3,300,000
Commonwealth funds	2,550,252	2,972,104	3,202,278	3,243,664
Other Income	49,395	16,350	8,203	7,897
Total Income	4,997,573	5,688,454	6,410,481	6,551,561
Project funding ¹	4,346,841	4,901,597	4,094,367	3,914,988
Available for Investment	0	150,000	1,350,000	1,600,000
Grower consultation and advice	4,751	20,000	20,000	20,000
Service delivery	748,905	872,610	940,189	952,340
Total matched expenditure	5,100,497	5,944,207	6,404,556	6,487,327
Closing balance	545,007	273,445	263,245	311,031
Federal Government levy collection costs	15,499	15,809	16,125	16,448

Note:

1. Project funding includes committed projects and projects supported by the advisory panel and currently in the process of procurement

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