

Delivery
partner
resource

Public summary guide



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Hort
Innovation

Public summary guide



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What is the public summary?

The public summary provides an at-a-glance overview of the project's progress during the last reporting period. It is the information that Hort Innovation will use to communicate on how the project is progressing with key stakeholder groups (such as our advisory panels) and what outcomes are being achieved for industry.

How should the summary be written?

The summary needs to be easy to understand, concise and factual. It should be written in plain English, with all technical terms and concepts clearly explained with a lay audience in mind.

The summary should be written in third person and avoid the use of phrasing such as "we did this".

Hint: Think about what a grower would need to know about the project and its progress.

How long should the summary be?

Usually, a length of one to three paragraphs (about 500 words) is appropriate.

What should the summary include?

The summary should provide information on key activities, outputs and outcomes during the reporting period. It should also include mention of any tangible outputs that have been developed that industry stakeholders can access and use, such as fact sheets, videos, guides etc.

Hint: There is no need to recap on the project's overall objectives in the public summary, rather it is intended to be an 'update' on progress.

Anything else important to know?

- Please do not include any commercially or institutionally sensitive material or any personally identifiable information
- All information included in the milestone report must be correct, up to date and not be misleading.
- Projects that are confidential must be summarised in a way that is suitable for public release
- As the summary may be presented separately from the entire milestone report, it must be able to stand alone.

Hint: If in doubt, reach out to your Hort Innovation contact for clarity and/or feedback.



Some good examples of public summaries provided by delivery partners

AV22004 MS105 – Written in third person, focuses on key findings and results

The project has released its first National Benchmarking report for the harvest season ending 2023. Key findings from the data found for the 2023 season the average Return on Assets Managed (ROAM) was 2.9%, a notable improvement from 0.2% in 2022. Results were calculated and presented for:

- The most profitable 25% of businesses, based on ROAM
- The average of the overall dataset
- The least profitable 25% of businesses, based on ROAM.

In relation to performance of Earnings Before Interest and Tax (EBIT) per producing hectare, the most profitable group generated, on average, approximately \$22,941 EBIT/ha in 2023. In contrast, the average farm generated around \$6,899 EBIT/ha, while the least profitable group incurred a loss of -\$7,177 EBIT/ha.

The project seeks to continue to grow the dataset of participating growers annually, who benefit from their own individual grower report plus a report that compares their business performance against the national benchmarks. Continuous feedback is sought through the project to continue to strengthen the data collection and presentation of results to ensure relevancy of the project to industry needs.

AL19000 MS190 – Written in third person, summary of the project's activities – For end of project summaries only

The purpose of AL19000 was to establish a stand-alone Experimental Orchard for Research and Development for the Australian almond industry. The project has involved developing a 60-hectare greenfield site on the outskirts of Loxton, South Australia into a state-of-the-art research facility that focuses on cutting edge trials that are managed under commercial orchard growing conditions to ensure they can be replicated effectively. The ongoing philosophy behind the facility has been creating an orchard capable of hosting a myriad of research and development projects unencumbered by commercial considerations that so often hamper the continuity of such trials on private property.

The finished product is a showcase research site that has drawn widespread support from industry stakeholders and beyond. The ongoing funding model developed during the project is a shining example of high-level collaboration between a peak industry body and Hort Innovation that will help underpin the long-term viability of the facility. It has managed to strike a unique co-funded balance that does not create an extra impost on the grower members.

The need for the facility has come on the back of exponential growth of the Australian almond industry over the past 20 years and a recognition that the body of local research on growing almonds in Australia needed to be cultivated.

The Australian almond industry has grown since 2006 from producing 16,000 tonnes to have a current productive capacity of 153,500 tonnes in 2024. This is expected to grow to more than 180,000 tonnes by 2030. The industry's 2023-24 plantings data shows the orchard area was 64,180 hectares spread across four States but mainly concentrated on the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers in the Riverland, Sunraysia and Riverina irrigation regions. It is expected additional plantings could add a further 6,000 hectares by 2030 as plantings of large orchards continue to be established.

The areas of key focus have been to investigate:

- Amendments to improve soil
- Improved rootstock / varietal / spacing combinations
- Tree architecture to harvest more light
- Developing new varieties
- Nutrition status assessment.

More than 20 research projects have already utilised the site. An event and visitor register that has been maintained since its completion has underlined the broad interest and relevance of the project. The extension of funded projects and the demonstration of new technologies and practices have also been enhanced by the facility. One of the special features is the range of plantings established for comparative purposes. It ranges from traditional varieties and tree densities right through to higher density new genotypes and tree architectures that are considered radical but offer the potential for shake and catch harvesting that would overcome the risk posed by summer rains that are predicted to become even more common in future.

Shedding has been designed to be multipurpose to facilitate training and extension events as well as house filtration, fertigation, machinery, processing equipment for trials, and offices for staff and researchers as well as toilet facilities for visitors to forums and field day events.



Share your thoughts

We strive to provide the best experience possible for our delivery partners. Please share your feedback on how we can improve this document for you and other delivery partners in the future by emailing us at communications@horticulture.com.au

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