

Outcome from the meetings

The Horticulture Industry Working Group met online on Tuesday 10 May 2022.

Brett Fifield, CEO of Hort Innovation joined the Working Group meeting, highlighting that if industry and Hort Innovation can get the advice mechanism process right it will underpin benefits in delivering knowledge, technologies, and services to further advance horticultural industries. The Hort Innovation Board's previous offer to industry was discussed, particularly confirmation that the Board is **offering commodity Peak Industry Bodies (PIBs) the opportunity to re-design the advice mechanism to provide industry-specific advice on investments and the prioritisation of these investments to suit the individual needs of each levy-paying sector. That includes the option for commodity PIBs to provide advice and them being resourced appropriately to do this.**

The Board has also recognised that no one size fits all and that some industries will want to stay with their current advisory mechanism.

Other items that were discussed at the Working Group meeting in May are outlined below.

Discussion items

- The Working Group considered the principles that advice mechanisms must meet in order for Hort Innovation to meet its compliance obligations.
- The principles will include conflict of interest and confidentiality.
- The Framework document that sets the scene for industry workshops in June, will need to clearly cover the Hort Innovation Board's offer, definitions of roles and responsibilities, principles of engagement and next steps. The workshops will be structured around the Framework.
- Because the principles flow from Hort Innovation's obligations under legislation and regulation, the Commonwealth Government will provide an overview of these requirements at the workshop. In addition, supporting documentation will be provided to stakeholders setting these requirements out clearly.
- The focus of the workshops will be defining the roles and responsibilities of Hort Innovation, commodity PIBs and Commonwealth Government, and discussing the principles that advice mechanisms must meet. It is anticipated that following the workshops each individual industry will partner with Hort Innovation to co-design its preferred advice mechanism model.
- The output from the workshops was discussed. The Working Group agreed it would be helpful to develop documents that:
 - Provide a high-level summary of the discussion at the three workshops, and
 - Set out the agreed definitions of roles and responsibilities, principles for advice mechanisms, what support will be made available to commodity PIBs to redesign the advice mechanism, next steps and timing.
- The Working Group acknowledged that other issues outside the focus of the workshops are likely to be raised. It was agreed these issues would be captured and the Working Group would consider possible actions to address them via collaboration between industry, Hort Innovation and the Commonwealth Government.

If you have follow-up questions regarding the outcomes from the Working Group meetings, please feel free to contact Sally Schilg, Account Director, Seftons sally.schilg@seftons.com.au