

## Almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panel meeting summary

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**Date:** 9th August 2017

**Attendance:** Brendan Sidhu, Ross Skinner, Craig Simes, Troy Richman, Paul Martin, Toby Smith, Claude Gauchat, (Chair), Corrine Jasper (Hort Innovation), Alok Kumar (Hort Innovation), Neil Burgess (Hort Innovation), Miriam O'Brien (Note Taker)

**Apologies:** Ben Brown and Domenic Cavallaro

**Location:** Loxton Research Facility

**Next Meeting:** February 2018

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### Overview

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A meeting of the almond industry SIAP (Strategic Investment Advisory Committee) was held on August 9, 2017 at the Loxton Research Facility. Hort Innovation provided a financial update, along with progress of concepts recommended for investment at the March meeting.

The following projects are currently out to tender

- AL16005 Almond Industry Integrated Pest Management
- AL16009 Almond Industry Integrated Disease Management

To be advertised for tender by the end of August:

- Almond Market Development Program – Europe

Additional advice prior to tender was sought from the panel for

- Economic benchmarking project
- Irrigation systems guide project

An update was provided on the following projects recently tendered and evaluated;

- AL 16007 Educating Health Professionals Project.

The Almond Graduate Engagement program (Leadership Fund) was discussed with advice provided for Hort Innovation to develop a communication for circulation by the ABA to all growers seeking interest in the program.

Alok Kumar, Relationship Manager for the Pollination and Advanced Production Systems Frontier Funds, provided an update and outline of the two funds and outlined how the almond industry currently is and could be involved with projects under contract and proposed for the future.

Anyone seeking further information on Hort Innovation's almond R&D investments should note that a full list of projects, together with an overview of the program financials will be available on the almond webpage of the Hort Innovation website.

## Next steps

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Hort Innovation to develop Request for proposals for the “Economic Benchmarking” and “Irrigation systems guide” and advertise for tender.

Hort Innovation to develop a communication for industry circulation for the “Graduate Engagement program”.

Continue negotiations for “Educating Health Professionals”.

## Contact

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