

# Raspberry and Blackberry Fund Annual Investment Plan 2024/25



## Proposed investments in 2024/25

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund in 2024/25 can be found below. Each year, Raspberry and Blackberry industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Berry 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 raspberry and blackberry R&D advisory panel met on June 19, 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.

*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 raspberry and blackberry Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2025/26.*

**Table 1. Raspberry and blackberry R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2024/25**

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	BerryQuest International 2025	3. Extension and capability	2. Provide opportunity for different levels of engagement between and across industries, across industry members and relevant stakeholders to innovate with, state-based IDOs and other extension initiatives
2	Support for agrichemical permits in berry industries	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	12. Provide regulatory support and co-ordination for crop protection regulatory activities with the potential to impact plant protection product access, both in Australia and internationally*
3	Enhancing management strategies for leafrollers and chilli thrips in the Australian berry industry	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2. Develop and optimise fit-for-purpose, sustainable pest and disease management strategies for berry production systems
*	Consumer tracking usage and attitude	4. Business insights	1. Increase industry alignment with quality and brand positioning opportunities driven by consumer insights

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
*	Generation of data – AgVet grants 2023-24	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	13. Generate residue, efficacy and crop safety data to support applications to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) to gain, maintain or broaden access to priority uses for label registrations and/or minor use permits for crop protection needs
*	Regulatory support and response co-ordination	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	12. Provide regulatory support and co-ordination for crop protection regulatory activities with the potential to impact plant protection product access, both in Australia and internationally.
*	Impact assessment program FY24-FY26	Enabler	Projects that enable and support the delivery of the SIP.
**	Picking great pickers for rubus	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	8. Review options to reduce the costs of labour in the berry industry through automation, mechanisation and/or robotic systems or improved management practices
**	Barriers to best practice across diverse communities	3. Extension and capability	4. Understand barriers to uptake of best practices including an understanding of the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities within the berry sector
**	Fumigation data packages against fruit fly to support Rubus export market access	1. Demand creation	3. Pursue technical market access for the priority markets identified in the export strategic plan
**	Solving plastic waste CRC	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	7. Develop a long-term sustainability program that includes a set of values, practices and communication activities that support a well-respected and sustainable berry industry (e.g., recycling of coir, plastics and water)

\* These projects are foundational investments required to support data generation, evaluation and continuous improvement, and therefore do not require advice.

\*\* These projects were previously endorsed for procurement during 2023/24.

## Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

Current contracted projects in the Raspberry and Blackberry Fund as at July 1, 2024, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Berry SIP, can be seen in Table 2 and 3. 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
<a href="#">FF20000</a>	National Fruit Fly Council	6,000	6,000	6,000	10,500
<a href="#">MT17006</a>	Xylella coordinator	10,780			
<a href="#">MT18004</a>	Biosecurity plan for the berry sector			7,200	
<a href="#">MT18005</a>	Improving plant industry access to new genetics	13,818			
<a href="#">MT18020</a>	Facilitating the development of Australian Berries	141,897			
<a href="#">MT20004</a>	Joint Export Trade development	41,601			
<a href="#">MT20007</a>	Regulatory support and Response Co-ordination	2,196	3,293		
<a href="#">MT21000</a>	Health and nutrition information for the berry industry	74,375			
<a href="#">MT21004</a>	Consumer behavioural retail data	13,744	41,309	27,539	33,165
<a href="#">MT21006</a>	Horticulture Statistics Handbook 2021/22 to 2023/24	4,166	7,583		
<a href="#">MT21008</a>	National bee pest surveillance program	15,000	15,711		
<a href="#">MT21010</a>	Economic contribution of Australian horticulture	880			
<a href="#">MT21015</a>	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	2,314	1,999		
<a href="#">MT21018</a>	Phenomenom	7,458			
<a href="#">MT21202</a>	Consumer usage and attitude research program	2,176			
MT22000	Fund Annual Reports 2021/22	864			

Project code	Project title	2023/24 Actual	2024/25 Forecast	2025/26 Forecast	2026/27 Forecast
<a href="#">MT22003</a>	Nuffield Scholarship	37,560		11,440	
<a href="#">MT22007</a>	Expansion of flies as berry crop pollinators	96,548	96,548	122,265	
<a href="#">MT22010</a>	Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries	358,933	189,420	199,373	199,373
<a href="#">MT22011</a>	Lean Leaders Program	9,500	7,000	1,500	
<a href="#">MT23001</a>	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	3,466	3,466		
MT23002	Fund annual reports 2022/23	163			
<a href="#">MT23003</a>	Berry advisory mechanism	25,692	51,384	51,384	64,230
<a href="#">MT23004</a>	Multi-industry berry trade development and market access project	82,862	79,810	80,988	82,202
<a href="#">MT23201</a>	Consumer usage and attitude tracking FY23/24	4,675	1,174		
PH23001	Progress on bumble bees as commercial pollinators in Australia: update on risks and opportunities	5,000	25,000	20,000	20,000
<a href="#">RB16000</a>	Rubus minor use program	2,810	2,000	2,000	
<a href="#">RB21000</a>	Integrated management approaches to address current pest challenges in rubus	224,428	224,428	224,428	224,428
<a href="#">RB21001</a>	Using pheromones and traps in the management of mirids and vegetable bugs	5,000	15,000	20,000	35,000
RB22000	Assessing the viability of fumigation as an export pathway for Australian rubus	78,981	69,108		
<a href="#">RB22001</a>	Strengthening the sustainability of Rubus production	104,000	104,000	52,000	
<a href="#">RB23002</a>	Best practice pollinator management for the Rubus industry	95,375	71,526	143,053	166,902
<a href="#">ST22001</a>	Crop protection	13,501			
<a href="#">ST22004</a>	Generation of data crop protection	24,746			
<b>Total</b>		<b>1,510,509</b>	<b>1,015,759</b>	<b>969,170</b>	<b>835,800</b>

**Table 3. Current contracted marketing project actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27**

<b>Project code</b>	<b>Project title</b>	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast</b>	<b>2026/27 Forecast</b>
MT23500	Berry Basket marketing campaign	156,000	104,000		
<b>Total</b>		<b>156,000</b>	<b>104,000</b>		

## Financial statements

Financial statements for the R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 5 below, and the marketing levy fund can be seen in Table 6.

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

**Table 5: Raspberry and blackberry 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	4,557,009	4,591,249	3,412,868	2,301,595
Levies from growers	741,807	224,000	235,400	247,000
Commonwealth funds	888,406	1,532,949	1,441,746	1,297,013
Other Income	187,866	137,737	102,386	69,048
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,818,079</b>	<b>1,894,686</b>	<b>1,779,532</b>	<b>1,613,061</b>
Project funding <sup>1</sup>	1,510,509	1,899,386	1,744,140	1,497,775
Available for Investment	-	700,000	700,000	700,000
Grower consultation and advice	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Service delivery	266,301	456,512	429,352	386,250
<b>Total matched expenditure</b>	<b>1,776,810</b>	<b>3,065,898</b>	<b>2,883,492</b>	<b>2,594,025</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>4,591,249</b>	<b>3,412,868</b>	<b>2,301,595</b>	<b>1,313,171</b>
Federal Government levy collection costs	7,029	7,170	7,313	7,459

Note:

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

**Table 6. Raspberry and blackberry marketing levy fund actuals at 2023/24 and forecast to 2026/27 (as at July 1, 2024)**

	<b>2023/24 Actual</b>	<b>2024/25 Forecast</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast</b>	<b>2026/27 Forecast</b>
Opening balance	288,157	217,233	5,198	5,198
Levies from growers	112,301	-	-	-
Other income	11,195	3,258	-	-
<b>Total income</b>	<b>123,496</b>	<b>3,258</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Project funding <sup>1</sup>	156,000	104,000	-	-
Available for investment	-	70,000	-	-
Grower consultation and advice	-	-	-	-
Service delivery	37,019	41,293	-	-
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>193,019</b>	<b>215,293</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>217,233</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>5,198</b>	<b>5,198</b>
Federal Government levy collection costs	1,401	-	-	-

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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