

What happened across the potato funds last year?

Annual Report 2021/22



About Hort Innovation and the Potato Funds

Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australia's horticulture sector. We work closely with industry to invest the fresh and processing potato levies, together with Australian Government contributions, into key initiatives for potato growers. We're proud of the work we do to help drive productivity, profitability, and demand for potato growers and the horticulture sector.

Read on for an overview of what Hort Innovation delivered in the Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds during the year.

We also encourage you to download a copy of the overarching Hort Innovation Annual Report 2021/22 at www.horticulture.com.au/annual-report-portal to see how Hort Innovation worked to benefit the horticulture sector during the year.

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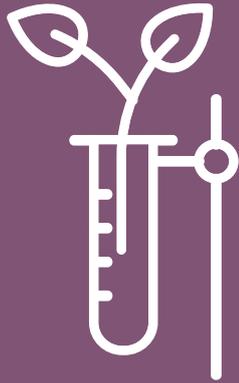
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Potato – Fresh Fund snapshot 2021/22



\$634,692

invested in R&D



\$674,432

in levies collected

by the Government and passed on to
Hort Innovation for investment

Potato – Processing Fund snapshot 2021/22



\$507,187

invested in R&D



\$444,227

in levies collected

by the Government and passed on to
Hort Innovation for investment

Industry facts



\$807.3M

In 2020/21, the potato industry was Australia's largest horticulture industry by value, with a production value of \$807.3 million



1,458,991t

Of the 1,458,991 tonnes of potatoes produced in 2020/21, 65% per cent were sent for processing



31%

While potatoes are grown across Australia, Tasmania is the largest producing state at 31 per cent of total production volume, followed by South Australia (30 per cent) and Victoria (18 per cent)

These facts and more can be found in the Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook, which is delivered by Hort Innovation each year. The handbook is packed with horticulture statistical information and analysis for some 75 categories. See www.horticulture.com.au/horticulture-statistics-handbook.



Consumer insights



27.9kg

In 2021/22, Australian households purchased an average of 27.9kg of fresh potato



9.1 million

9.1 million Australian households bought fresh potatoes in 2021/22

These insights were made available through the Harvest to Home platform (www.harvesttohome.net.au) delivered as part of an investment providing regular consumer behaviour data and insight reporting.



Just some of the things delivered for you during the year



Delivery of PotatoLink – the potato industry’s communication and extension investment to support potato growers in adopting improved practices on-farm and keeping up to date with the latest industry news. Sign up at www.potatolink.com.au.



Access to consumer insights through multi-industry investments to understand consumer behaviours, attitudes and purchase intentions – see www.horticulture.com.au/growers



frontiers

Investments in the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative to address longer-term and often complex issues and opportunities critical to the future of Australian horticulture – see www.horticulture.com.au/hort-frontiers*

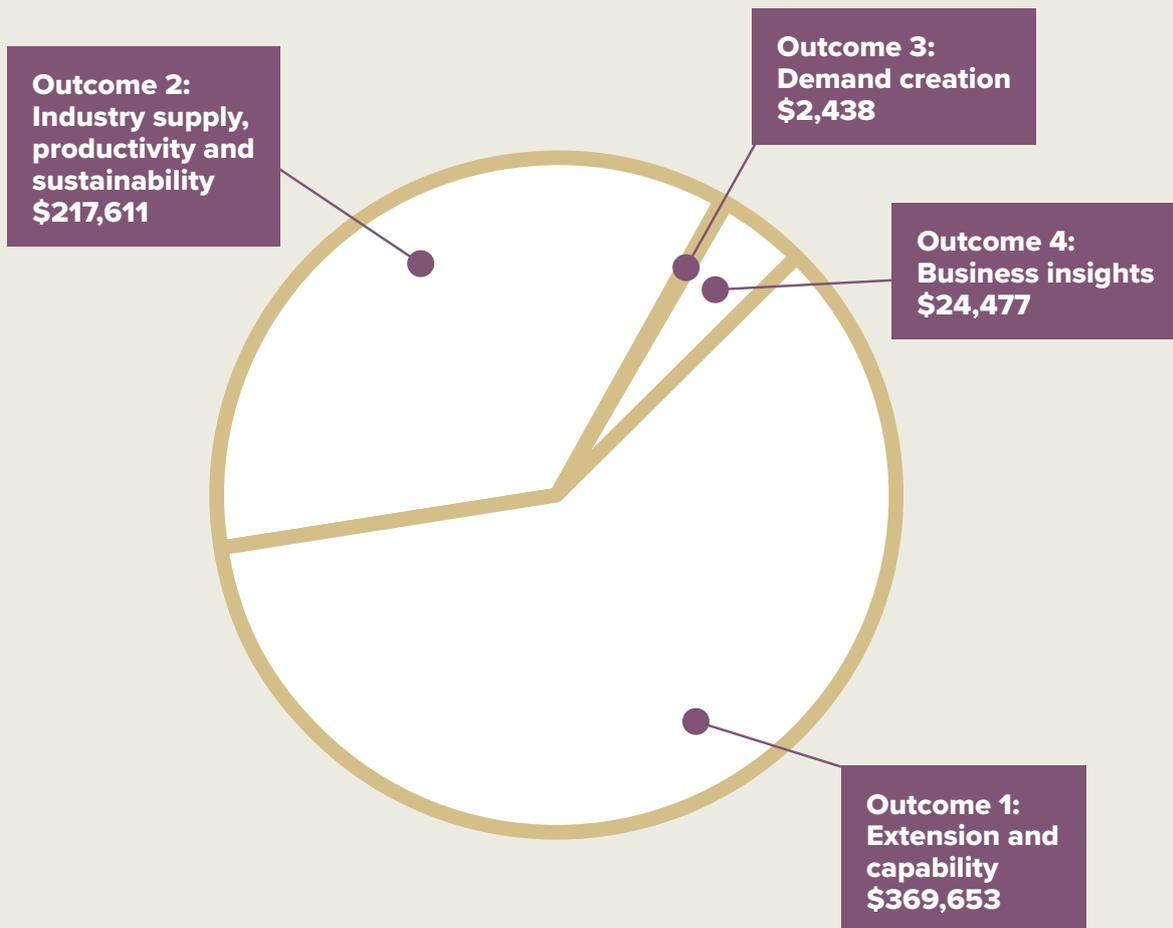


Projects supported by grants secured by Hort Innovation, ranging from cross-sector Rural R&D for Profit initiatives to horticulture-specific work to aid in access to crop protection products – see the Hort Innovation Annual Report 2021/22 for more details*

You can visit www.horticulture.com.au/growers at any time to access information on new, ongoing and completed projects, and to download resources produced by your levy investments.

*These initiatives were delivered outside of the Hort Innovation Potato – Fresh Fund and, in most instances, did not involve the industry levy

Here's how the fresh potato R&D levy was invested over the year



The potato Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) guides investments specific to the Hort Innovation Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds. The SIP features priority outcome areas identified and agreed upon by the industry. Hort Innovation works to invest in R&D initiatives aligned to these.

The above chart shows how project expenditure in the fresh potato industry during 2021/22 was aligned to the SIP. We have allocated each project to a SIP outcome based on its primary objective.

Which projects were in each of the SIP outcome areas?

Outcome 1: Extension and capability

Improved capability and an innovative culture in the Australian potato industry maximises investments in productivity and demand.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Attracting new entrants into Australian horticulture – promoting careers in horticulture (LP15006)	\$1,980	Ongoing	hortinn.com/lp15006
Advancing women’s leadership across the Australian horticultural sector (LP16000)	\$3,960	Completed	hortinn.com/lp16000
Management strategy for serpentine leafminer, <i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i> (MT20005)	\$25,000	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt20005
The Australian potato grower’s manual (PT19003)	\$45,716	Completed	hortinn.com/pt19003
Australian potato industry communication and extension project (PT20000)	\$252,592	Ongoing	hortinn.com/pt20000
Soil wealth and integrated crop protection – phase 2 (VG16078)	\$40,406	Ongoing	hortinn.com/vg16078

Outcome 2: Industry supply, productivity and sustainability

The Australian potato industry has increased profitability, efficiency and sustainability through innovative R&D and sustainable BMPs.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative – Phase 2 (HA19007)	\$1,000	Ongoing	
An IPM extension program for the potato and onion industries (MT16009)	\$62,510	Completed	hortinn.com/mt16009
Improving plant industry access to new genetics through faster and more accurate diagnostics using next generation sequencing (MT18005)	\$19,800	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt18005

Continued

Investments

Outcome 2: Industry supply, productivity and sustainability (continued)

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
National tomato potato psyllid and zebra chip surveillance (MT18008)	\$58,213	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt18008
Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides) (MT20007)	\$3,351	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt20007
Review of the national biosecurity plan for the potato industry and development of a biosecurity manual for potato producers (PT16004)	\$1,430	Completed	hortinn.com/pt16004
Program approach for pest and disease potato industry investments (PT17002)	\$19,746	Completed	hortinn.com/pt17002
Investigating soil pH and nutrition as possible factors influencing pink rot in potatoes – a pilot study (PT19000)	\$51,562	Ongoing	hortinn.com/pt19000

Outcome 3: Demand creation

Demand creation supports the Australian fresh potato industry to develop existing and future domestic and international markets.

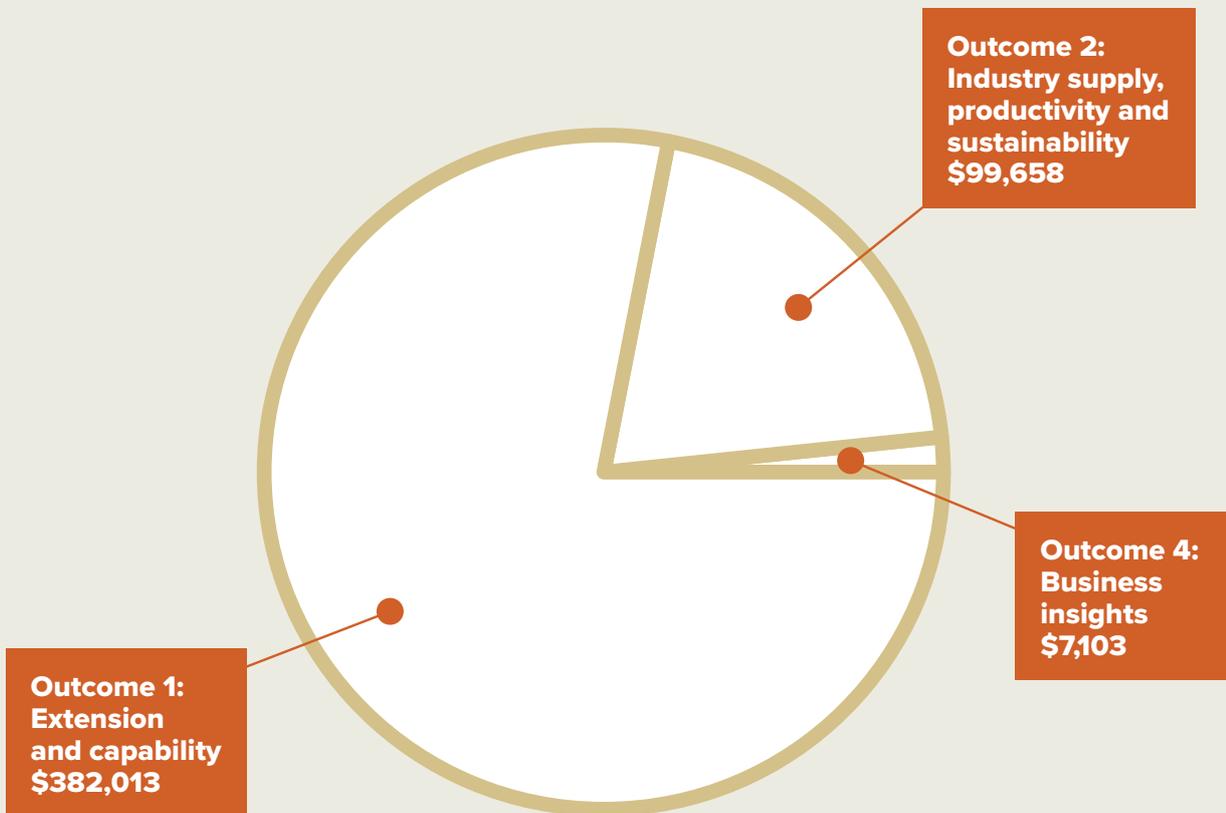
Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Australian horticulture international demand creation (ST21007)	\$2,438	Ongoing	hortinn.com/st21007

Outcome 4: Business insights

The Australian potato industry is supported by consumer knowledge and tracking, trade data and independent reviews to drive informed decision-making.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Horticulture trade data (MT19005)	\$4,076	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt19005
Consumer demand spaces for horticulture (MT21003)	\$4,075	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt21003
Consumer behavioural data program (MT21004)	\$10,520	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt21004
Seasonal horticulture labour accommodation study (MT21007)	\$1,429	Ongoing	
Economic contribution of Australian horticulture (MT21010)	\$4,378	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt21010

Here's how the processing potato R&D levy was invested over the year



The potato Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) guides investments specific to the Hort Innovation Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds. The SIP features priority outcome areas identified and agreed upon by the industry. Hort Innovation works to invest in R&D initiatives aligned to these.

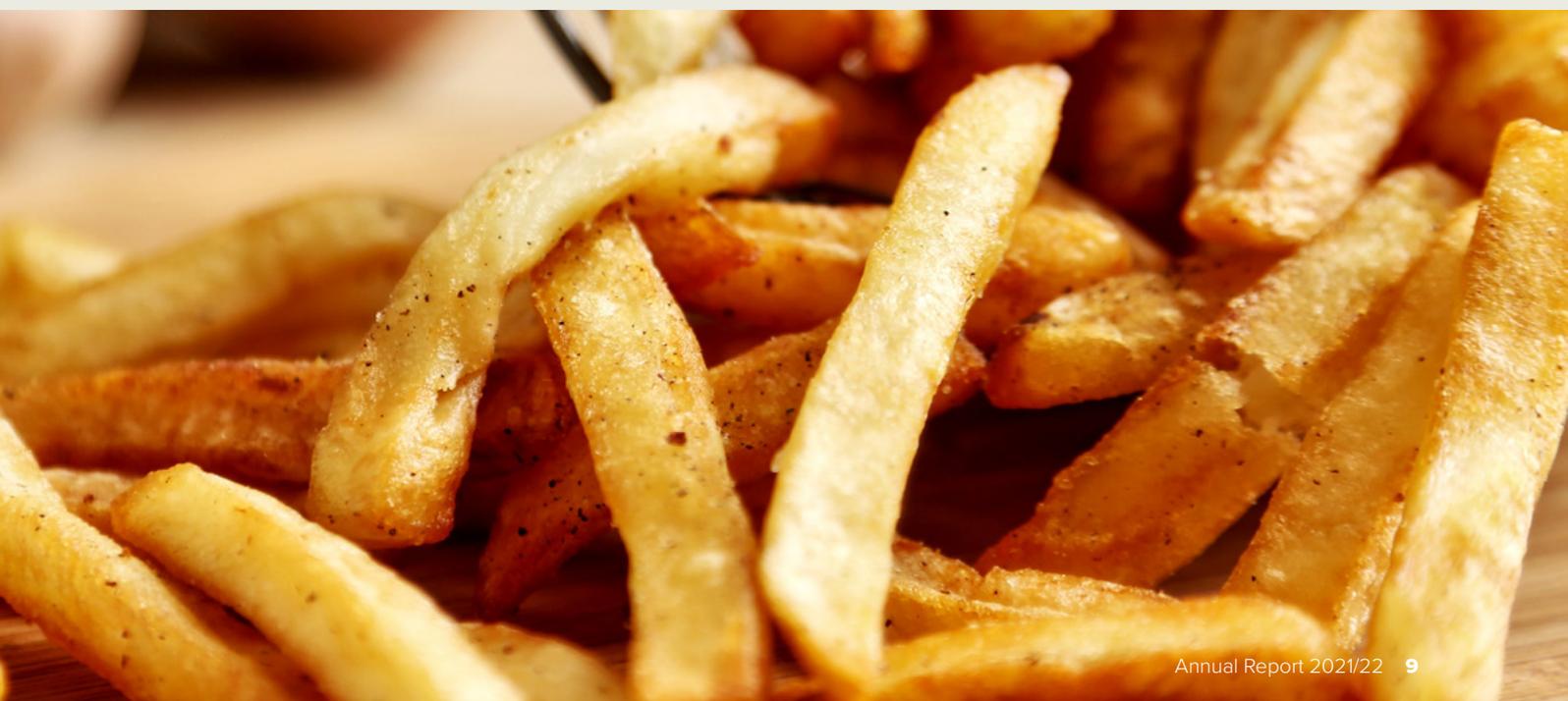
The above chart shows how project expenditure in the processing potato industry during 2021/22 was aligned to the SIP. We have allocated each project to a SIP outcome based on its primary objective.

Which projects were in each of the SIP outcome areas?

Outcome 1: Extension and capability

Improved capability and an innovative culture in the Australian potato industry maximises investments in productivity and demand.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Attracting new entrants into Australian horticulture – promoting careers in horticulture (LP15006)	\$1,020	Ongoing	hortinn.com/lp15006
Advancing women’s leadership across the Australian horticultural sector (LP16000)	\$2,040	Completed	hortinn.com/lp16000
Management strategy for serpentine leafminer, <i>Liriomyza huidobrensis</i> (MT20005)	\$59,831	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt20005
The Australian potato grower’s manual (PT19003)	\$45,716	Completed	hortinn.com/pt19003
Australian potato industry communication and extension project (PT20000)	\$252,592	Ongoing	hortinn.com/pt20000
Soil wealth and integrated crop protection – phase 2 (VG16078)	\$20,815	Ongoing	hortinn.com/vg16078



Investments

Outcome 2: Industry supply, productivity and sustainability

The Australian potato industry has increased profitability, efficiency and sustainability through innovative R&D and sustainable BMPs.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Plant Biosecurity Research Initiative – Phase 2 (HA19007)	\$585	Ongoing	
An IPM extension program for the potato and onion industries (MT16009)	\$25,004	Completed	hortinn.com/mt16009
Improving plant industry access to new genetics through faster and more accurate diagnostics using next generation sequencing (MT18005)	\$10,200	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt18005
National tomato potato psyllid and zebra chip surveillance (MT18008)	\$29,989	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt18008
Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides) (MT20007)	\$1,550	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt20007
Review of the national biosecurity plan for the potato industry and development of a biosecurity manual for potato producers (PT16004)	\$736	Completed	hortinn.com/pt16004
Potato industry minor use program (PT16005)	\$350	Ongoing	hortinn.com/pt16005
Program approach for pest and disease potato industry investments (PT17002)	\$4,682	Completed	hortinn.com/pt17002
Investigating soil pH and nutrition as possible factors influencing pink rot in potatoes – a pilot study (PT19000)	\$26,562	Ongoing	hortinn.com/pt19000

Outcome 4: Business insights

The Australian potato industry is supported by consumer knowledge and tracking, trade data and independent reviews to drive informed decision-making.

Project title and code	2021/22 investment	Status	More information
Horticulture trade data (MT19005)	\$4,076	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt19005
Seasonal horticulture labour accommodation study (MT21007)	\$746	Ongoing	
Economic contribution of Australian horticulture (MT21010)	\$2,282	Ongoing	hortinn.com/mt21010

Financial operating statement

Potato – Fresh Fund Financial operating statement 2021/22

	R&D (\$)	Total (\$)
	2021/22 July – June	2021/22 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	554,809	554,809
Levies from growers	674,432	674,432
Australian Government money	370,168	370,168
Other income*	1,544	1,544
TOTAL INCOME	1,046,145	1,046,145
Project funding	634,692	634,692
Consultation with and advice from growers	1,905	1,905
Service delivery	103,739	103,739
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	740,337	740,337
CLOSING BALANCE	840,156	840,156
Levy collection costs	20,461	20,461

* Interest, royalties

Levy collection costs – These are the costs associated with the collection of levies from industry charged by Levy Revenue Services (LRS)

Service delivery – Also known as Corporate Cost Recovery (CCR), this is the total cost of managing the investment portfolio charged by Hort Innovation

Financial operating statement

Potato – Processing Fund Financial operating statement 2021/22

	R&D (\$)	Total (\$)
	2021/22 July – June	2021/22 July – June
OPENING BALANCE	934,452	934,452
Levies from processors	444,227	444,227
Australian Government money	299,126	299,126
Other income*	1,913	1,913
TOTAL INCOME	745,265	745,265
Project funding	507,187	507,187
Consultation with and advice from processors	1,327	1,327
Service delivery	89,738	89,738
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	598,251	598,251
CLOSING BALANCE	1,067,758	1,067,758
Levy collection costs	13,708	13,708

* Interest, royalties

Levy collection costs – These are the costs associated with the collection of levies from industry charged by Levy Revenue Services (LRS)

Service delivery – Also known as Corporate Cost Recovery (CCR), this is the total cost of managing the investment portfolio charged by Hort Innovation

Making sure that levy investment decisions align with industry priorities

What will be the Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds' focus over the next five years?



Hort Innovation developed the potato Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) in 2021 to reflect current priorities for the potato industry, involving extensive consultation with potato growers and industry stakeholders, including AUSVEG (for fresh potatoes) and the Potato Processors Association of Australia (PPAA) (for potato processing). The SIP is the roadmap that helps guide Hort Innovation's oversight and management of individual levy industry investment programs.

The potato SIP lays the foundation for decision-making in levy investments and represents the balanced interests of the potato industry. The most important function of the SIP is to make sure that levy investment decisions align with industry priorities.

The potato SIP identifies four outcome areas that will contribute to the productivity and profitability of the sector. They are:

- Industry supply, productivity and sustainability
- Demand creation
- Extension and capability
- Business insights.

What projects will the Fund be investing in next year?

The potato Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2022/23 details how Hort Innovation spends levy funds over 12 months. The potato industry SIP guides investment decisions, and our consultation process prioritises investments based on potential impact and levy fund availability.

Hort Innovation publishes Annual Investment Plans each year over the lifespan of the SIP and advises industry stakeholders via various communication channels.

Hort Innovation will continue to report on fund performance regularly, focusing on outcomes and the impact of investments.



Visit www.horticulture.com.au/growers to view both documents and better understand how Hort Innovation invests your levy.

Supporting potato growers in adopting improved practices on-farm

The potato industry's communication and extension program, known as PotatoLink, is keeping growers up to date

The investment *Australian potato industry communication and extension project (PT20000)* is tasked with supporting Australian potato growers in adopting improved practices on-farm and keeping up to date with the latest industry news, information, resources and technologies.

The project delivers a nationally coordinated but locally implemented program which employs regional delivery partners who provide specialist skills and knowledge to

the industry. The role of the regional delivery partners is a broad one, with all activities geared towards improving the circulation and uptake of information within the industry.

As well as extension activities, the project produces key communication channels for the potato industry, including a hard copy quarterly R&D magazine, online webinars and podcasts, social media, and a dedicated website to host industry resources.

Meet Neville Quinlan, potato grower from Ballarat, Victoria

Neville Quinlan is a fifth-generation farmer from Ballarat in the central Victorian highlands, who manages his operation with his son, Tom. They are a 280-hectare mixed farming operation (120 hectares of which is leased) and grow processing potatoes, lucerne, fat lambs and grain. Each year they produce 7,000 tonnes of potatoes.



Neville Quinlan, potato grower.

Why did you get involved in the program?

“We were originally encouraged to get involved with the potato extension and communications program by our agronomist, Stuart Grigg. Even though we have been farming in the region for generations there is still something that we can learn. As farmers we can sometimes get stuck in our habits of just doing things because it’s the way we have always done them.

“The main issues the potato industry is facing are soil diseases followed by insect pests. That’s why the program is hosting a site looking at using soil inoculants to build root and plant health while increasing disease suppression.”



Did you learn anything new?

“The program has a very “hands-on” approach with the way soil and plants samples were taken as well as how the crop was scouted for insects. It was different to what we have done in the past and challenged our way of thinking. You sort of get caught up in your own ways year in, year out and don’t change unless you are prompted through something like this program.

“By paying more attention to what insects were present in the crop they have been able to reduce the time spent spraying insecticides, and the less chemical we use, the better for everyone.”

What are some of the benefits of being involved?

“Our involvement in the project is still early days but learning the way to go about taking soil and plants and what to be looking out for in terms of good and bad insects in the crop has changed the way we go about things, as we will likely look to use these methods on other sections of the farm.



By paying more attention to what insects were present in the crop they have been able to reduce the time spent spraying insecticides, and the less chemical we use, the better for everyone.”

Neville Quinlan, potato grower, Ballarat, VIC

“The initial results we see from the soil inoculant demo site are promising, with potato plants looking noticeably healthier with great root growth. We anticipate this will translate into a yield increase of around 2t/ha, if not more.

“One of the greatest benefits has been learning new ways of going about things that can help improve the way we go about things into the future. It’s good to be still learning, especially things I can pass onto my son.”

Minor use permits

Both the Hort Innovation Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds support the submission of applications for new and renewed minor use permits for the industry, as well as data generation activities to support chemical permits and registrations, and strategic agrichemical reviews.

Together these efforts provide industry access to safe, relevant and effective chemicals to manage pests, weeds and diseases.

For full details on these activities and links to relevant information, visit hortinn.com/potato-minor-use.



Minor use permits

Current permits

Below is a list of minor use permits for the potato industry, current as of 15 August 2022.

Permit ID	Description	Date issued	Expiry date	Permit holder
PER80344 Version 3	Chlorpyrifos / Potato / African black beetle and red legged earth mite (WA only)	02-Jan-15	31-Jul-24	Hort Innovation
PER12612 Version 4	Alpha-cypermethrin / Potatoes / Garden weevil (TAS and WA only)	29-Jun-11	30-Apr-26	Hort Innovation
PER14722 Version 3	Abamectin / Potato, cucumber, squash and zucchini / Tomato red spider mite	17-Feb-15	31-Jul-25	Hort Innovation
PER14765 Version 4	Hexythiazox / Cucurbits, fruiting vegetables, snow peas, sugar snap peas and potatoes / Tomato red mite (<i>Tetranychus evansi</i>)	21-Feb-15	30-Sep-23	Hort Innovation
PER89259 Version 2	Chlorantraniliprole / Potato / Fall armyworm	06-Mar-20	31-Mar-23	Hort Innovation
PER89241	Spinetoram / Various including root and tuber / Fall armyworm	06-Mar-20	31-Mar-23	Hort Innovation
PER89293	Methomyl / Potato / Fall armyworm (<i>Spodoptera frugiperda</i>)	10-Apr-20	30-Apr-23	Hort Innovation
PER84245 Version 2	Spirotetramat (Movento) / Potato, sweetpotato, tomato, capsicum, chilli pepper and eggplant (field and protected cropping systems) / Tomato potato psyllid	07-Apr-17	30-Apr-25	NSW DPI
PER84249 Version 2	Abamectin, Lambda-cyhalothrin and Methomyl / Potato / Tomato potato psyllid	16-Jun-17	31-Jul-25	NSW DPI
PER89870	Spinosad (Entrust Organic) / Various including root and tuber vegetables / Fall armyworm	21-Jul-20	31-Jul-23	Hort Innovation

All efforts have been made to provide the most current, complete and accurate information on these permits, however you should always confirm all details on the APVMA website at portal.apvma.gov.au/permits. Details of the conditions of use associated with these permits can also be found on the APVMA site.

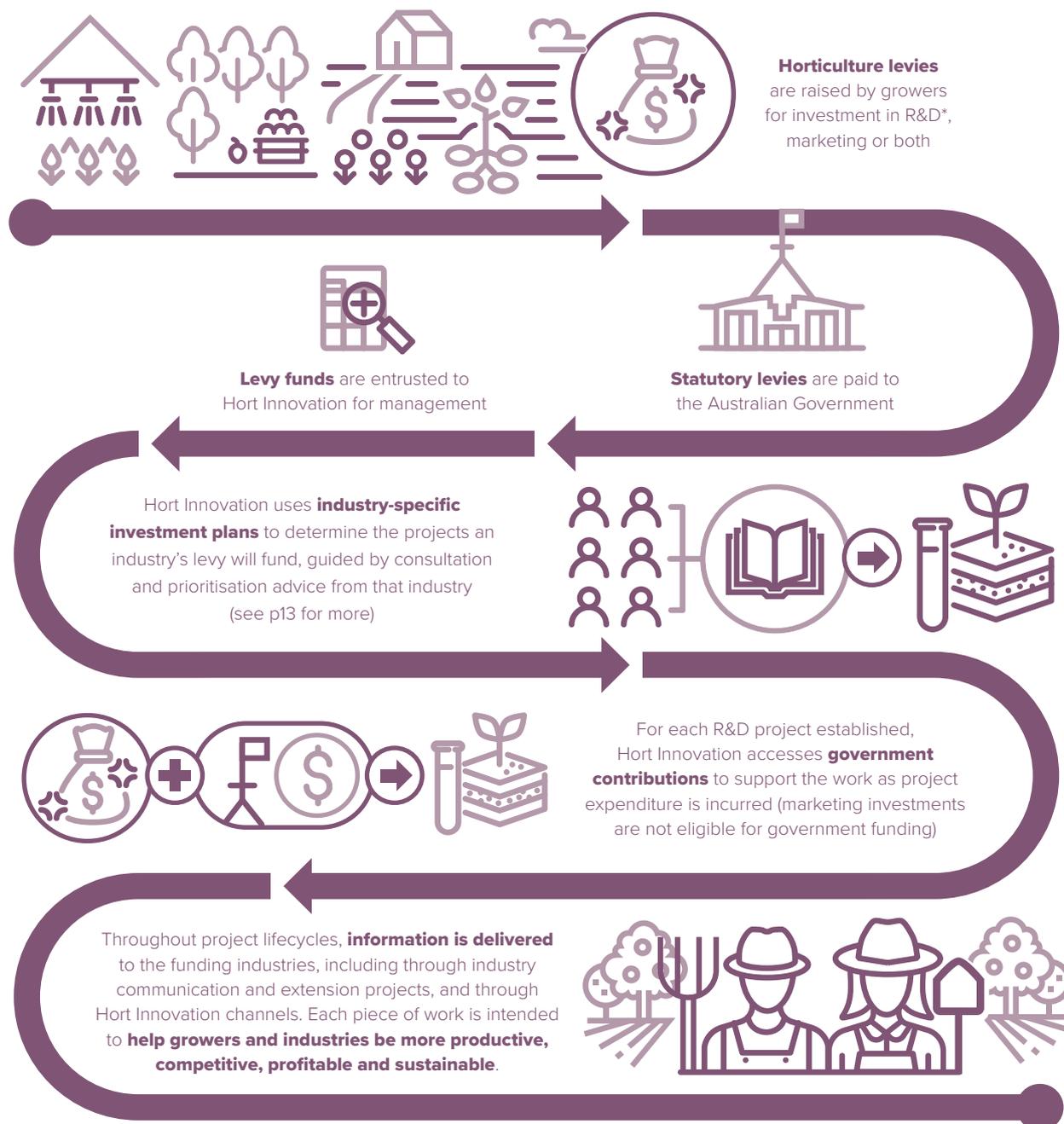
Keep up to date!

Find monthly minor use permit updates in our *Growing Innovation* e-newsletter.

Sign up for free at www.horticulture.com.au/sign-up.

How strategic levy investments are made in the Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds

The below diagram shows how Hort Innovation makes strategic levy investments on behalf of horticulture industries. The fresh and processing potato R&D levies were invested this way during the year, guided by the potato Strategic Investment Plan 2022-2026 and advice from the industry’s investment advisory panel.



* Encapsulating extension and international trade

To learn more about funding specific to the Hort Innovation Potato – Fresh and Potato – Processing Funds, visit www.horticulture.com.au/growers. During the year, other sources of funding were also used to support activities for the benefit of Australian horticulture, including grant funding secured by Hort Innovation, co-investment dollars brokered through our Hort Frontiers initiative and centralised strategic levy reserve.

Hort Innovation

Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited
ACN 602 100 149

Level 7, 141 Walker Street
North Sydney NSW 2060 Australia

02 8295 2300 | communications@horticulture.com.au

www.horticulture.com.au

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