

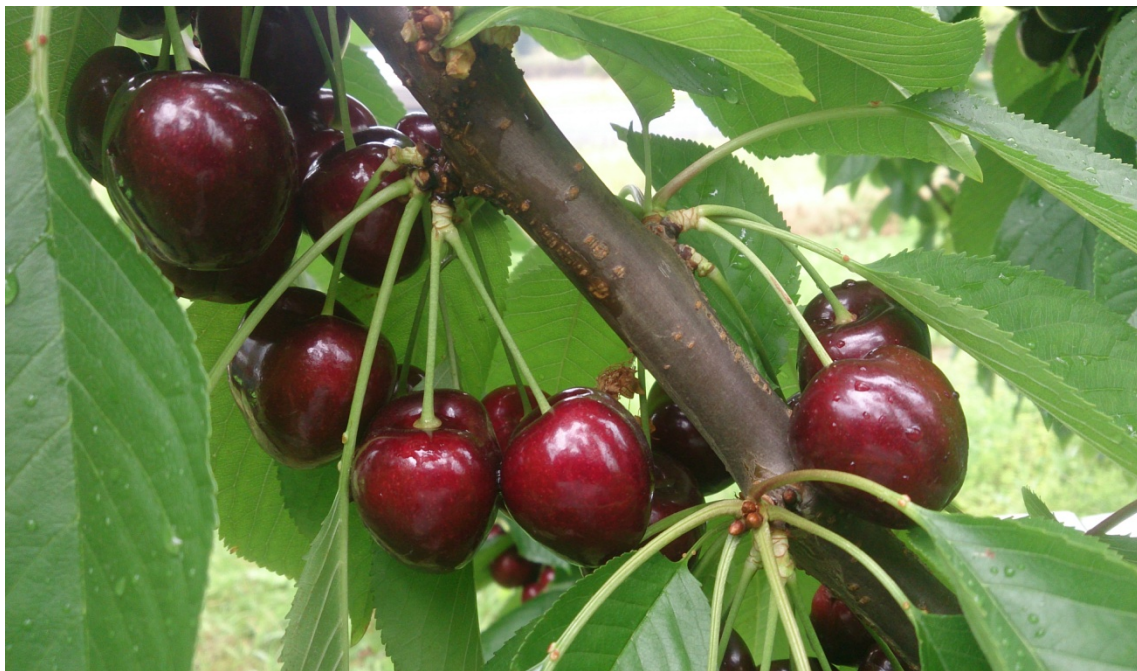


## **Cherry Growers Australia Inc**

ABN 77797945686

**Report to the Federal Minister on the review of current levies set by the Australian Cherry Industry and the levy vote held.**

**March 2020**





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12<sup>th</sup> of March 2020

Honorable David Littleproud, MP  
Minister for Agriculture  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Littleproud,

I am writing to you as the President of Cherry Growers Australia, as a follow up to the previous correspondence sent to your office in May and September of 2018. This followed correspondence to the preceding Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce in June 2016 and November 2017 (attached) on matters pertaining to a review of our levies for the Australian Cherry Industry.

In June 2016, a levy review had been undertaken by industry to seek amendment to the National Cherry Levy. The results of this Levy review were ultimately not approved by the Federal Government. This necessitated another Levy review that has been completed in 2017.

A revision to the Cherry Industry original submission was required, necessitating our submission in September 2018.

The industry has been involved in a number of cost sharing projects in the last two years through the EPPRD levy, which has necessitated this levy be activated. Currently, the EPPRD levy for the cherry industry is set at zero.

There have been a number of submissions made to Cherry Growers Australia Inc about activating the EPPRD levy autonomously of the proposed levy review and changes to the Cherry Levy.

This notes that the Cherry Industry levy review included a request to activate the EPPRD as part of the review – acknowledging the cherry industry's cost sharing requirements as a signatory to the EPPRD.

However, it remains the firm desire of the Australian cherry industry that EPPRD not be actioned until the Levy Review undertaken by the cherry industry be approved also.

This was a full levy review undertaken in good faith by the Australian cherry industry was not taken in isolation and included a review of the industry's commitments to the PHA levy and EPPRD. At the time of the review, there was no outstanding cost sharing requirements as these presented just after conclusion of the review. However, as instructed by LRS – industry was advised on the proposed activation of the EPPRD with a call for any submission and comment to be provided to Cherry Growers Australia. No objections were noted.

To this end, the Australian Cherry Industry would request that the Levy Review of the Australian cherry levy be approved as presented, including the revision to the EPPRD. The Cherry Industry requests that the EPPRD levy not be activated in isolation of the Levy Review but as part of it.

It is the Australian Cherry Industry's intention to comply with all requirements of their role as a signatory of the EPPRD, but the delay in action of the Levy Review is stifling the industry's ability to undertake essential research and development work in conjunction with Hort Innovation and as such therefore cannot be pushed aside to make way for activation of the EPPRD levy.

The Australian Cherry Industry requests approval of the levy review with a change to the levy breakdown to following:

- 5.70 (Cents /Kilogram) for Research & Development that is matched \$ for \$ by the Australian Government;
- 0.30 (Cent /Kilogram) for Plant Health Australia Levy, that is not matched by the Australian Government;
- 1.00 (Cent /Kilogram) for Marketing & Promotional activities, that is not matched by the Australian Government;
- 0.00 (Cent /Kilogram) for the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed levy that will be matched or otherwise as agreed to under regulations and agreements from the EPPRD

However, this notes that until cost sharing arrangements under the EPPRD are met, the actual breakdown will represent the following:

- 5.00 (Cents /Kilogram) for Research & Development that is matched \$ for \$ by the Australian Government;
- 0.30 (Cent /Kilogram) for Plant Health Australia Levy, that is not matched by the Australian Government;
- 1.00 (Cent /Kilogram) for Marketing & Promotional activities, that is not matched by the Australian Government;
- 0.70 (Cent /Kilogram) for the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed levy that will be matched or otherwise as agreed to under regulations and agreements from the EPPRD

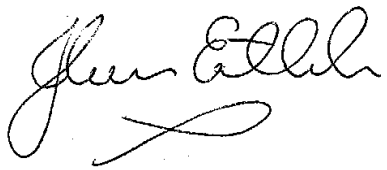
Cherry Growers Australia reiterates its prior assertion that the industry believes that a review of our levy has been undertaken with industry in good faith and in accordance with the Department of Agriculture - Levy Principles and Guidelines document of January 2009.

Attached with this correspondence is the prior provided correspondence from September 2018, May 2018, November 2017 and June 2016.

We trust that this will provide sufficient evidence to see the levy review approved and implemented.

If you need any further information please feel free to contact me on 0438 059 464 or via [president@cherrygrowers.org.au](mailto:president@cherrygrowers.org.au).

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Eastlake', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Tom Eastlake  
President  
Cherry Growers Australia

## Attachments

### Industry Discussion Paper



CGA levy paper for industry discussion - /

### Levy Workshop - CGA President Report to Industry – 2017



Levy Workshops - President's Report 20

### Ballot Paper & Ballot Letter



Ballot paper.pdf



Ballot pack letter.pdf

### Levy Vote Results Advice – 2017 & 2018



Levy Vote Advice - Aug 17.pdf



Levy Vote Advice - Nov 17.pdf



Levy Results Advice - 2018.pdf

### CGA Review of Compliance with Levy Principles – 2018



CGA - Compliance with Levy Principles -

### EPPRD – Intention to Activate Levy – May 2018



Intention to Activate the EPPRD Levy - May



Projected Funds Raised by New Levy.p

### Reports Provided to Federal Agricultural Minister



Final report to Ministers CGA levy - J



Final report to Minister - CGA Levy -



Final report to Minister - CGA Levy -



Final report to Minister - CGA Levy -

### Levy Update – As presented at CGA AGM and Export Registration Workshops 2018 & 2019



CGA - Levy Update 2018.pdf



CGA - Levy Update 2019.pdf