

# **Almond Fund**

# **Annual Investment Plan**

## **2025/26**



September 2025

**Hort**  
**Innovation** **ALMOND**  
**FUND**

## Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Almond Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, almond industry representatives meet as advisory a panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Almond Strategic Investment Plan (SIP). At these meetings, the panel is 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 almond R&D advisory panel met on July 11, 2024, November 12, 2024 and February 5, 2025 to discuss, provide advice on, and prioritise recommendations on investments in 2025/26. The R&D investment recommendations are listed in order of priority in Table 1 and the CIF investment recommendation in Table 2.

*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 Almond Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.*

**Table 1. Almond R&D advisory panel prioritised investment recommendations in 2025/26**

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Pathway to carbon neutral whole orchard recycling in almond orchards – Phase 2	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1.3 Soil management
1	Varietal leafing failure complex in almond – PhD	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1.2 Orchard intensification
		3. Extension and capability	3.3 Leadership initiatives
1	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program 2025-2030	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1.4 Pollination
2	Efficient almond orchard systems	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1.2 Orchard intensification
3	Flies as effective pollinators for horticulture	1. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	1.4 Pollination
3	Growing almond leaders	3. Extension and capability	3.3 Leadership initiatives
4	Almond industry international study tours	3. Extension and capability	3.2 Trusted relationships 3.3 Leadership initiatives

**Table 2. Almond CIF advisory panel prioritised investment recommendation in 2025/26**

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Almond market development and market access project	2. Demand creation	2.1 Nutrition education 2.3 Market access 2.4 Market research 2.5 Educate trade stakeholders
		4. Business insights	4.1 Market research 4.2 Export development opportunities



## Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Almond Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Almond SIP, can be seen in Table 3 and the CIF projects can be seen in Table 4. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

**Table 3. Current contracted almond R&D project actuals at 2025/25 and forecast to 2027/28**

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
<a href="#">AL16002</a>	Almond Minor Use Permits	117	–	–	–
AL16001	Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production – Stage 3	143,301	95,534	119,421	–
<a href="#">AL21000</a>	Pathway to carbon neutral – whole orchard recycling in almond orchards	96,124	–	–	–
<a href="#">AL21001</a>	Optimising almond production systems	280,000	280,000	413,175	–
<a href="#">AL21004</a>	Cover crops for soil health and productivity	63,326	63,326	63,326	94,989
<a href="#">AL22000</a>	Evaluating self-fertile varieties in block plantings for almond growers	67,196	67,196	67,196	67,196
<a href="#">AL22001</a>	Almond industry innovation and adoption program – Phase two	772,988	772,988	772,988	772,988
<a href="#">AL22002</a>	An Integrated Disease Management program for the Australian almond industry – Phase 2	486,882	486,882	486,882	852,042
<a href="#">AL22003</a>	An Integrated Pest Management program for the Australian almond industry – Phase 2	745,110	703,116	571,168	780,175
<a href="#">AL22007</a>	Almond industry statistics and data collection 2023-2025	55,920	83,880	–	–
<a href="#">AL22008</a>	Almond Industry Communications and Events Program	176,000	176,000	176,000	353,640
<a href="#">AL22009</a>	Australian almond variety evaluation program	221,082	221,082	221,082	221,082
<a href="#">AL23000</a>	Almond Center of Excellence operation and maintenance	598,574	586,294	579,999	578,550
<a href="#">AL23001</a>	Enabling the pathway to best sustainable management practices	165,250	126,625	63,312	–
<a href="#">AL23003</a>	Growing Almond Leaders	273,289	138,170	162,265	162,265
<a href="#">AL23004</a>	Almond industry International study tours	90,000	40,000	46,847	–
AL23910	Industry and grower consultation including SIAPs and EAPs	978	–	–	–

Table 3. continued

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
AL24910	Industry and grower consultation including SIAPs and EAPs	11,405	–	–	–
<a href="#">AS18000</a>	National tree crop intensification program	411,120	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT20007</a>	Regulatory support and response co-ordination (pesticides)	6,993	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT21004</a>	Consumer behavioural retail data	-7,920	5,659	6,815	–
<a href="#">MT21008</a>	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program: Transition program	60,847	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT21015</a>	Horticulture impact assessment program 2020/21 to 2022/23	7,122	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT22005</a>	Horticulture trade data	15,456	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT23001</a>	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	5,838	–	–	–
MT23005	One Basin CRC – partnering on behalf of horticulture industries	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
<a href="#">MT23201</a>	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	11,403	–	–	–
<a href="#">MT24005</a>	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	6,295	4,197	5,246	–
<a href="#">MT24008</a>	Regulatory support and response co-ordination (pesticides)	11,620	7,747	7,747	11,620
<a href="#">MT24201</a>	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2025/26	873	1,746	1,746	–
AL24003	One Basin CRC PhD – mitigating leafing failure in almond through varietal management	–	30,000	30,000	30,000
Total		4,832,189	3,945,442	3,850,216	3,979,547

**Table 4. Current contracted almond CIF R&D project actuals at 2025/25 and forecast to 2027/28**

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
<a href="#">AL19000</a>	Almond Centre of Excellence experimental and demonstration orchard	320,000			
AL22004	Almond market access and trade development 2023-2026	1,470,411	1,574,306		
<a href="#">AL23000</a>	Almond Centre of Excellence operation and maintenance	535,170	548,670	554,964	556,414
Total		2,325,581	2,122,976	554,964	556,414

## Financial statements

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

**Table 5: Almond R&D levy fund actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2027/28 (as at July 1, 2025)**

	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
Opening balance	544,992	817,479	493,900	298,222
Levies from growers	3,063,945	2,700,000	2,800,000	3,100,000
Commonwealth funds	2,831,904	3,029,107	2,994,253	3,066,167
Other income	51,296	16,702	10,085	5,604
Total income	5,947,145	5,745,809	5,804,338	6,171,770
Project funding <sup>1</sup>	4,832,189	4,768,868	4,709,394	4,832,107
Available for investment	-	400,000	400,000	400,000
Service delivery	831,620	889,346	879,113	900,227
Total matched expenditure	5,663,809	6,058,213	5,988,506	6,132,333
Federal Government levy collection costs	10,849	11,174	11,510	11,855
Annual levy cash movement	272,487	-323,579	-195,678	27,582
Closing balance	817,479	493,900	298,222	325,804

Note:

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



**Table 6: Almond CIF R&D fund actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2027/28 (as at July 1, 2025)**

	<b>2024/25 Actual \$</b>	<b>2025/26 Forecast \$</b>	<b>2026/27 Forecast \$</b>	<b>2027/28 Forecast \$</b>
Opening balance	333,992	315,860	105,138	101,771
Levies from growers	1,331,267	2,500,000	1,200,000	1,200,000
Commonwealth funds	1,362,906	2,714,277	1,206,808	1,207,658
Other income	13,507	3,555	3,442	3,294
<b>Total income</b>	<b>2,707,680</b>	<b>5,217,833</b>	<b>2,410,250</b>	<b>2,410,952</b>
Project funding <sup>1</sup>	2,325,581	4,631,643	2,059,297	2,060,747
Available for investment	-	-	-	-
Service delivery	400,232	796,912	354,319	354,568
<b>Total matched expenditure</b>	<b>2,725,813</b>	<b>5,428,555</b>	<b>2,413,616</b>	<b>2,415,315</b>
Federal Government levy collection costs	-	-	-	-
Annual levy cash movement	-18,132	-210,722	-3,367	-4,364
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>315,860</b>	<b>105,138</b>	<b>101,771</b>	<b>97,407</b>

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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