

Chestnut Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2025/26



September 2025

Hort
Innovation

CHESTNUT
FUND

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D and marketing investments in the Chestnut Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, chestnut industry representatives meet as advisory panels to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Chestnut 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 chestnut advisory panel met on October 17, 2024, November 28, 2024, February 21, 2025 and July 7, 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 marketing investment recommendation is listed 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 Chestnut Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27.

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

Priority 2025/26	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Chestnut industry communications and extension program	3. Extension and capability	3.1 Communication capability
2	Chestnut rot fungicide trials in chestnuts	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.1 IPDM 2.4 SARP 2.5 Crop protection 2.6 Crop safety data
3	Generation of data – chestnut rot invitro studies	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.5 Crop protection
4	Chestnut industry consultation support FY25/26	5. Enabler	5. Enabler

Table 2. Chestnut marketing advisory panel investment recommendation in 2025/26

Priority 2025/26	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Chestnut marketing plan FY25 and FY26	1. Demand creation	1. Consumer demand

Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

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

Table 3. Current contracted chestnut R&D project actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2027/28

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
CH16001	Chestnut industry minor use permit program	817	-	-	-
CH22000	Chestnut industry communications program	28,090	32,500	-	-
CH23002	Chestnut rot evaluation trials	3,240	-	-	-
CH24001	Chestnut industry consultation support FY24/25	5,546	2,604	-	-
MT20007	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	187	-	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural retail data	0	-	-	-
MT21015	Horticulture impact assessment program	113	-	-	-
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	212	-	-	-
MT24008	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	310	207	207	310
MT24201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 25/26	110	219	219	-
Total		38,624	35,530	426	310

Table 4. Current contracted chestnut marketing project actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$
CH24501	Chestnut administration and events FY24/25 and FY25/26 (Expenses only)	11,435	21,000
CH24502	Chestnut marketing, public relations social media FY24/25 and FY25/26 (Expenses only)	20,900	17,900
CH24503	Chestnut carry over FY24/25 and FY25/26 (Expenses only)	-	13,765
Total		32,335	52,665

Financial statements

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

Table 5. Chestnut 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	131,395	146,172	82,249	30,163
Levies from growers	41,419	50,000	50,000	50,000
Commonwealth funds	23,011	107,225	93,341	45,810
Other income	5,573	2,781	1,020	850
Total income	70,002	160,006	144,361	96,660
Project funding ¹	38,624	169,987	116,683	36,896
Available for investment	0	10,000	40,000	40,000
Service delivery	7,397	34,462	30,000	14,723
Total matched expenditure	46,021	214,449	186,683	91,619
Federal Government levy collection costs	9,204	9,480	9,765	10,057
Annual levy cash movement	14,777	-63,923	-52,086	-5,017
Closing balance	146,172	82,249	30,163	25,146

Note:

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

Table 6. Chestnut marketing 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	49,127	46,662	27,128	34,367
Levies from growers	46,021	55,000	55,000	55,000
Other income	2,361	2,361	543	687
Total income	48,382	57,361	55,543	55,687
Project funding ¹	32,335	52,810	-	-
Available for investment	-	-	30,000	30,000
Service delivery	8,488	13,861	7,874	7,874
Total expenditure	40,823	66,671	37,874	37,874
Federal Government levy collection costs	8,488	13,861	7,874	7,874
Annual levy cash movement	-2,465	-19,534	7,240	7,176
Closing balance	46,662	27,128	34,367	41,543

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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