

# Potato Processing Fund Annual Investment Plan 2025/26



September 2025

**Hort**  
**Innovation**

**POTATO –  
PROCESSING FUND**

## Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Potato – Processing Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, potato industry representatives meet as an advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Potato – Processing 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 processing potato R&D advisory panel met in October 2024, as well as in May and June 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.

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

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Potato sustainability – undertaking a life cycle analysis	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.2 Precision input management
1	Biosecurity preparedness strategy for the potato industry	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.3 Biosecurity preparedness
2	Accelerating adoption of AWM-IPDM systems in vegetable, onion and potato growing regions	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.1 Integrated pest and disease management (IPDM)
2	National coordination for agrichemical access and risk management for the Australian vegetable sector	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.3 Biosecurity preparedness 2.4 SARP 2.6 Regulatory support 2.7 Crop safety data
3	Potato workforce training and leadership program	1. Extension and capability	1.3 Industry leadership
4	High school education resources	1. Extension and capability	1.2 Engagement to innovate
4	High school education resources	1. Extension and capability	1.2 Engagement to innovate
4	Printing and future-proofing key vegetable, onion and potato industry resources	1. Extension and capability	1.1 Extension capability

## Current contracted R&D projects

Current contracted projects in the Potato – Processing Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Potato – Processing SIP, can be seen in Table 2. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink.

**Table 2. Current contracted processing potato 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 \$
<a href="#">MT20007</a>	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	1,163	-	-	-
<a href="#">MT21006</a>	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	7,583	-	-	-
<a href="#">MT21015</a>	1Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	1,240	-	-	-
<a href="#">MT24005</a>	Horticulture Trade Data 2022-2025	1,082	-	-	-
<a href="#">MT22012</a>	Industry Preparedness for exotic root knot nematode ( <i>Meloidogyne enterolobii</i> )	4,200	4,900	-	-
<a href="#">MT24005</a>	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	1,057	705	881	-
<a href="#">MT24008</a>	Regulatory support and coordination (pesticides)	1,932	1,288	1,288	1,932
<a href="#">MT24012</a>	Accelerating adoption of Area Wide-Integrated Crop Management in vegetable, onion and potato growing regions	3,600	14,400	-	-
<a href="#">MT24015</a>	One Survey for vegetable, onion and potato levy funded projects	492	3,428	462	462
MT24023	National Aggrichemical management program	-	11,071	5,536	5,536
<a href="#">PT16005</a>	Potato industry minor use program	750	-	-	-
<a href="#">PT20000</a>	Australian potato industry communication and extension project	242,625	125,625	-	-
<a href="#">PT23000</a>	World Potato Congress 2024	26,670	-	-	-
<a href="#">PT23002</a>	An Integrated Disease Management Program for the Australian potato industry	216,419	92,208	216,419	388,907
PT23910	Industry advice and grower consultation	1,983	-	-	-
PT24001	Potato sustainability – undertaking a life cycle assessment	15,959	31,850	31,984	-
PT24910	Industry advice and grower consultation	20,034	-	-	-
Total		546,789	285,474	256,569	396,836



## Financial statements

Financial statements for the processing potato R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Processing potato R&D levy 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	1,593,288	1,788,000	1,616,500	1,408,534
Levies from growers	460,025	430,000	438,000	438,000
Commonwealth funds	325,749	637,508	674,381	736,977
Other income	78,550	54,664	47,632	38,142
<b>Total income</b>	<b>864,324</b>	<b>1,122,172</b>	<b>1,160,012</b>	<b>1,213,118</b>
Project funding <sup>1</sup>	546,789	670,121	732,016	837,089
Available for investment	-	400,000	400,000	400,000
Service delivery	104,710	204,895	216,746	236,864
<b>Total matched expenditure</b>	<b>651,499</b>	<b>1,275,016</b>	<b>1,348,762</b>	<b>1,473,953</b>
Federal Government levy collection costs	18,113	18,656	19,216	19,793
Annual levy cash movement	194,712	-171,500	-207,965	-280,627
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>1,788,000</b>	<b>1,616,500</b>	<b>1,408,534</b>	<b>1,127,907</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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