

Strawberry Fund

Annual Investment Plan

2025/26



September 2025

Hort
Innovation **STRAWBERRY**
FUND

Proposed investments in 2025/26

A list of proposed R&D investments in the Strawberry Fund in 2025/26 can be found below. Each year, strawberry industry representatives meet as an advisory panel to discuss investment recommendations in line with the Strawberry 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 strawberry R&D advisory panel met on May 14, 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 Strawberry Annual Investment Plan (AIP) 2026/27. Any investments not endorsed by June 30, 2025, will not be included in this report.

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

Priority	Investment	Outcome	Strategy
1	Generation of data – berry residue trials	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.13 Crop Safety data
2	Generation of data – rubus and strawberry mite efficacy trials	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.13 Crop Safety data
3	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program	2. Industry supply, productivity and sustainability	2.6 Protect Biosecurity Status
4	Berry basket marketing	1. Demand	1.1 Consumer Demand

Current contracted R&D and marketing projects

Current contracted projects in the Strawberry Fund as at July 1, 2025, which are aligned to the respective outcomes and strategies in the Strawberry SIP, can be seen in Table 2. The current contracted royalty projects can be seen in Table 3. More information about these projects is available on the Hort Innovation website where the projects have a hyperlink

Table 2. Current contracted strawberry 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 \$
AM21000	Serviced supply chains II	130,000	130,000	-	-
AM22000	Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (FASTA)	200,000	100,000	-	-
BS16001	Strawberry industry minor use program	1,466	-	-	-
BS19000	High-health pre-commercial propagation material for Australian strawberry growers	50,220	50,220	133,920	-
BS22000	Australian Strawberry Breeding Program	777,120	777,120	777,120	971,401
BS24001	An independent expert midterm evaluation of BS22000 Australian Strawberry Breeding Program	17,878	-	-	-
FF20000	National Fruit Fly Council – Phase 4	6,000	6,000	10,500	-
MT18004	Review of the Biosecurity Plan for the Berry Sector	-	7,200	-	-
MT20007	Regulatory support and response co-ordination (pesticides)	3,124	-	-	-
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program	11,789	8,488	10,222	-
MT21006	Australian Horticulture Statistics Handbook	7,583	-	-	-
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program: Transition Program	27,875	-	-	-
MT21015	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2020/21 to 2022/23	3,258	-	-	-
MT22005	Horticulture trade data	2,339	-	-	-
MT22010	Facilitating the development of the Australian berry industries	179,467	179,467	179,467	179,467
MT23001	Strategic Agrichemical Review Process (SARP) 2023 updates	3,465	-	-	-
MT23003	Berry advisory mechanism	12,846	12,846	16,057	-
MT23004	Multi-industry berry trade development and market access project (2024-2029)	61,539	95,195	53,438	46,941



Table 2. continued

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$	2026/27 Forecast \$	2027/28 Forecast \$
MT23201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2023/24	5,660	-	-	-
MT24004	BerryQuest International 2025	33,333	-	-	-
MT24005	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26	3,469	2,313	2,891	-
MT24007	Chemical Residue Report to Support Australia's Country Recognition Arrangement (CRA) with Indonesia (2024-2029)	306	162	169	176
MT24008	Regulatory support and response co-ordination (pesticides)	5,191	3,461	3,461	5,191
MT24201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 2025/26	1,589	3,177	3,177	-
Total		1,545,517	1,375,649	1,190,422	1,203,175

Table 3. Current contracted strawberry royalty project actuals at 2024/25 and forecast to 2025/26

Project code	Project title	2024/25 Actual \$	2025/26 Forecast \$
MT23500	Berry basket marketing campaign FY24	96,000	-
BS20777	ARC research hub for sustainable crop protection (bioclay)	50,000	-
Total		146,000	-

Financial statements

Financial statements for the strawberry R&D levy fund can be seen in Table 4 below and the royalty fund can be seen in Table 5.

Table 4: Strawberry 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	174,415	37,129	23,268	13,227
Levies from growers	774,750	731,000	731,000	731,000
Commonwealth funds	909,151	895,818	796,678	800,775
Other income	11,228	165,493	70,609	79,910
Total income	1,695,128	1,792,311	1,598,287	1,611,685
Project funding ¹	1,545,517	1,522,891	1,354,352	1,361,317
Available for investment	-	-	-	-
Service delivery	272,784	268,745	239,003	240,232
Total matched expenditure	1,818,301	1,791,636	1,593,355	1,601,549
Federal Government levy collection costs	14,113	14,536	14,972	15,422
Annual levy cash movement	-137,286	-13,861	-10,041	-5,286
Closing balance	37,129	23,268	13,227	7,941

Note:

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

Table 5. Strawberry royalty 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	1,174,523	1,447,213	1,239,115	1,098,242
Strawberry royalties	394,557	150,000	150,000	150,000
Commonwealth funds	-	-	-	-
Other income	49,902	41,902	37,139	20,451
Total income	444,459	191,902	187,139	170,451
Project funding ¹	146,000	200,000	200,000	0
Available for investment	-	164,707	92,717	79,642
Service delivery	25,769	35,294	35,294	0
Total matched expenditure	171,769	400,001	328,011	79,642
Federal Government levy collection costs	-	-	-	-
Annual levy cash movement	272,690	-208,098	-140,873	90,809
Closing balance	1,447,213	1,239,115	1,098,242	1,189,051

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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