



11<sup>th</sup> October 2024

Senate Standing Committee on Economics  
GPO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Correspondence via email: [economics.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Committee,

**RE: Supporting letter to the NFF Horticulture Council Submission to the Inquiry into 'big box' retailer price setting.**

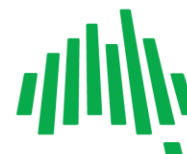
On behalf of the National Farmers' Federation (NFF), I am writing to you to express NFF's support for the submission made by the NFF Horticulture Council to the Senate Standing Committee on Economics' Inquiry into 'big box' retailer price setting.

The NFF was established in 1979 as the national peak body representing farmers and more broadly, agriculture across Australia. The NFF's membership comprises all of Australia's major agricultural commodities across the breadth and the length of the supply chain. Operating under a federated structure, individual farmers join their respective state farm organisation and/or national commodity council. These organisations form the NFF.

The Australian nursery industry, cultivating seedlings, plants, trees and shrubs for landscaping, gardening and agriculture is valued at approximately \$2.8 billion and employs around 25,000 people across the country. Despite this diversity and size, individual growers are particularly vulnerable to poor trading practices by 'big box' retailers given their market power, the perishable nature of the product and that no viable export market options exist.

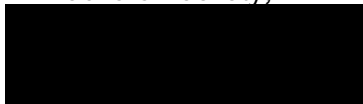
As outlined in our submission to the *Food and Grocery Code of Conduct Review 2023-24*, the NFF has heard numerous examples of nursery growers experiencing similar trading issues and inequities as those who supply food products to supermarkets, and yet are not protected by any similar code.

The NFF strongly encourages the Committee to recommend to regulate the trade through a mandatory code, should relevant 'big box' retailers by the time this committee reports its findings not agree to submitting to a voluntary code of conduct. Additionally, this Code should be underpinned by significant penalties for Code contraventions.



The NFF urges to the Committee to consider the issues and recommendations outlined in the NFF Horticulture Council's submission to the inquiry.

Yours sincerely,



**Tony Mahar**  
Chief Executive Officer