



11 December 2023

Senator Glenn Sterle
Chair
Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator Sterle,

RE: Inquiry Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Bill 2023 [Provisions] and related Bills

Horticulture Innovation Australia (Hort Innovation) welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Inquiry into the Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Bill 2023 [Provisions] and related Bills.

Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit rural research and development corporation (RDC) for Australia's horticulture industry. We advance Australia's \$16 billion horticulture industry by investing in research and development, marketing and trade to create a prosperous and sustainable future built on innovation for growers in 37 horticulture industries.

Partnering with Australian and international co-investors including government, other agricultural RDCs and leading science, technology, and consumer strategy experts, Hort Innovation aligns investments to industry-wide, grower priorities. Through the RDC model, the Australian Government partners with industry in the research, development and extension needed to address future challenges and opportunities for both horticulture and the agriculture sector more broadly.

Hort Innovation supports the desired outcome of the proposed reforms, to modernise and streamline the levy framework. We appreciate it has been a complex task to bring together the contents of many RDC Acts.

During development of this suite of Bills, Hort Innovation has constructively engaged with the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). We will engage further with DAFF in their planned consultation in early 2024 on related draft regulations and rules.

In preparation to transition from the *Horticulture Marketing and Research and Development Services Act 2000* to the new legislative framework, Hort Innovation welcomes the opportunity to discuss administrative arrangements for the new levies' legislation with DAFF in 2024, acknowledging it is subject to the Parliamentary process.

Hort Innovation does not have any further comments on the contents of the Bills.

Sincerely,

Brett Fifield
CEO, Hort Innovation