



5 JUL 2012

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By: Senator Ruston

Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig

Date: 15 Oct 2012

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland

REF: MNMT2012-03737

Mr Andrew Green
Chief Executive Officer
SA Citrus Industry Development Board
GPO Box 557
INGLE FARM SA 5098

Dear Mr Green

I write to inform you of progress in investigating the complaints raised in your letter of 22 December 2011 about the operation of Horticulture Australia Limited's (HAL) citrus industry advisory committee (IAC).

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry worked with HAL to investigate your claims and has reported its findings to me. The department advised me that the HAL board and staff cooperated fully and openly during the investigation.

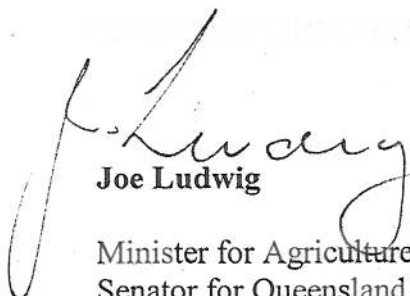
The investigation confirmed your claims that the majority of the citrus IAC members are directors of Citrus Australia Limited (CAL) and that, based on the advice of the citrus IAC, HAL allocated significant amounts of research and development funding in recent years to CAL.

HAL has confirmed it will implement a number of actions to strengthen the governance arrangements for the citrus IAC to address the issues you raised. These are:

- The citrus IAC will be reconstituted with the majority of its members not being directors, executive officers or employees of CAL.
- Ms Pat Barkley will remain on the IAC as the technical advisor on the R&D program.
- HAL will facilitate a meeting of key citrus industry stakeholders to ensure there is adequate transparency in the IAC's operations and its interaction with CAL.
- There will be an increased level of reporting to levy payers at the next annual citrus industry levy payers meeting.

If you require any further information about the investigation, please contact Mr Peter Ottesen, Assistant Secretary, Crops, Horticulture and Wine Branch, on 02 6272 3060 or at peter.ottesen@daff.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Joe Ludwig

Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Senator for Queensland

2 July 2012