

Horticulture Australia Council *the Uniting Voice of Horticulture*



Horticulture Australia Council (HAC) is the peak national organisation representing horticulture.

Current members of HAC are the peak national bodies representing the various commodity groups in horticulture, plus grower representative organisations.

Horticulture Australia Council Members



- Apple & Pear Australia Ltd
- Avocados Australia Ltd
- Australian Banana Growers' Council
- Australian Citrus Growers Inc
- Australian Custard Apple Growers Association Inc
- Australian Dried Fruits Association
- Australian Mango Industry Association Ltd
- Australian Mushroom Growers Association Ltd
- Australian Nut Industry Council
- Australian Passionfruit Industry Association Inc
- AUSVEG
- Cherry Growers of Australia Inc
- Growcom
- NSW Farmers' Association
- Nursery & Garden Industry Australia Ltd
- Pineapple Growers
- Strawberries Australia
- Summerfruit Australia Ltd

Benefits of HAC Membership



- Membership of the national peak body representing horticulture;
- Reaping the benefits of agri-political activities undertaken on behalf of the industry or Member organisations;
- A strong and united voice on behalf of the industry, to ensure issues effecting horticulture are taken into account in government policy;
- Access to the 'big picture' (eg via HAC's e-newsletter, *Drip Feed*), keeping Auscitrus and its members up-to-date with current issues, campaigns, etc.;
- Your input (through HAC consultative processes) to setting the national agenda on issues of concern to your members;
- Strong advocacy on behalf of HAC Member organisations;
- Input, on behalf of industry, to Parliamentary inquiries, national meetings, consultations, round-tables, etc.

2006 “the Year of Horticulture”



- *Creating Our Future - agriculture & food policy for the next generation*
 - Blueprint for agri-food for next 10-15 years.
- Minister’s in-principle agreement to provide significant funding for development of a Strategic Direction for Horticulture.
- Leverage for other whole-of-sector projects/issues.
- Recent IP funding.

Current Issues



The HAC Board has identified these priority issues for the coming period:

- The mandatory Horticulture Code of Conduct;
- Food labelling and FANZ Standards, including:
 - CoOL;
 - ‘Health Claims’.
- Trade issues, including:
 - the impact of FTAs;
 - food safety of imported products;
 - bio-security; and
 - a ‘level playing field’ for Australian growers.

Current Issues



Other issues include:

- Exotic disease management;
- Management of land tenure in an environment of urban encroachment ('Right to Farm');
- Natural resource management, including sustainable water management;
- Labour and skills (including harvest trails, DIMIA visa arrangements, skills gaps, etc); and
- Market dominance of the supermarket chains.

Strategic Alliances

HAL



Co-operative and effective working relationship:

- Clear delineation of roles, endorsed by both Boards.
- Proposed Strategic Direction for Horticulture, overseen jointly by both Boards.
- Joint Industry Forums twice yearly.
- Close working relationship on issues (eg Turf levy; joint submission to the Senate Inquiry on Pacific Island seasonal contract labour).
- Utilisation of each other's consultative forums/committees to avoid duplication & waste of resources.

Strategic Alliances



NFF

- Recent meeting between HAC Chair & Deputy-Chair, NFF President, and respective CEOs to discuss developing more effective working relationship
 - further informal meetings agreed.
- Joint NFF/HAC Code of Conduct Steering Committee agreed as a good model of co-operative endeavours to influence the national policy agenda.
- Joint meetings/activities agreed by both Boards.