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Search: Go



News

Antony Allen resigns as Avocados Australia CEO - 10/02/2012

[Full News List](#)

Avocados Australia's Board of Directors today announced that Antony Allen has resigned as Chief Executive Officer, a position he has held for almost a decade. The Board has begun an intensive selection process to appoint a new CEO in the coming months.

"Antony's extraordinary vision and leadership guided Avocados Australia to its position as a strong and effective peak industry body, envied by many other industries in horticulture" commented Jim Kochi, Chairman of Avocados Australia, on behalf of the Avocados Australia Board. "He will certainly be missed here at Avocados Australia for the quality of the work he did on behalf of all Australian avocado growers and for the friendship he shared with many of them. We wish Antony great success as he seeks new challenges."

Antony joined the avocado industry in 2002 as the CEO of the Australian Avocado Growers Federation (AAGF). Antony was instrumental in a move to restructure the AAGF to allow grower-members direct and equal access to their national organisation, and in 2003 became CEO of the newly formed Avocados Australia. His decision will end a distinguished career with the organisation.

Antony's strong focus has been on guiding the industry's 'research and development' and 'promotion' program to assist sustainable growth and development within the Australian avocado industry. From 2002 to 2012 the Australian avocado industry has grown from a farm gate value of \$60 million to \$215 million.

Antony is also the President of the International Avocado Society, Chair of the International Avocado Research Consortium and has served on numerous committees within horticulture, including the Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) Across Industry Committee.

"It's been fantastic working with Avocado Australia, we have achieved so much over the years. The Australian avocado industry is a growing, progressive, profitable and sustainable industry and a leader in product, supply chain and industry development innovation. It will only continue to grow," said Mr Allen.

Mr Allen will stay on board at the Avocados Australia office to smooth out the hand over process to the new CEO.

For more information please contact:

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Avocados Australia Limited is the Peak Industry Body in Australia for Avocados. We are a "not for profit" membership based organisation. Our members are Avocado growers along with associated businesses and industry people.

Avocados Australia seeks to work with all parts of the chain from production through to the consumer. By working together we seek to continually improve the ability of growers to provide a healthy, profitable and safe product for all consumers. As part of this continual improvement we guide a "research & development" and "marketing and promotion" program for the Australian Avocado industry.

The Australian Avocado industry comprises 1100 growers across the country and produces 68,500 tonnes of avocados each year worth **\$AUD215 million at farm gate and \$490 million at retail level.**

Key growing areas are North, Central and Southeast Queensland, Northern and Central New South Wales, the Sunraysia or Tristate area (South Australia),

Victoria and South Western New South Wales) and Western Australia.

For more information Media Resources or Avocado News or contact Avocados Australia at ceo@avocado.org.au

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