



Home About Us Membership Events Growers Services News Contact Best Practice Media Supply Chain Directory Services Login

Search: Go



News

Horticulture Code - Adjustment Needed - 04/04/2007

[Full News List](#)

Avocados Australia has supported the development of the Horticulture Code of Conduct (HCC) and welcomes the implementation date that is fast approaching.

Over the last month the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) has been conducting information sessions on the HCC for growers and wholesale market traders across the country.

Growers have expressed various concerns to Avocados Australia concerning the HCC. These HCC issues have become clearer with the ACCC's explanation of how it is interpreting the implementation of the HCC.

These concerns include three main areas:

1. That the pooling of grower's fruit within grower owned packing houses/marketing groups is not permitted under the HCC.
2. That the HCC is applied between the grower and the packing house/marketing group that grower owns, leaving the next step in the marketing process still exposed to trading problems that have always existed.
3. That "buyers agents" are exempt from the HCC, thus leaving growers exposed to the ongoing trading problems.

"We have spent the last 20 years encouraging and helping growers to get together in cooperative packing houses and collective marketing", explained Mr Henry Kwaczynski Chairman of Avocados Australia.

"We need to work hard to solve these issues in the HCC, otherwise we are going to take a step backwards on group packing and marketing, said Mr Kwaczynski. We could end up with two classes of packing houses, those with protection under the HCC and those without", he added.

"We are supportive of the HCC and what it is attempting to achieve", he explained, "but as with all new systems, adjustments need to be made when they are put into practical application and we would like to participate in this improvement process."

For further comment:

Henry Kwaczynski, Avocados Australia Chair on 0409 261 461 or 07 5442 1767

Antony Allen, Avocados Australia CEO on 0438 132 477 or 07 3391 2344

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 1300 growers across the country and produces 40,000 tonnes of Avocados each year worth \$AUD100 million. 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 contact Avocados Australia at admin@avocado.org.au

[Full News List](#)

