



MEDIA STATEMENT

12 May 2022

An Avocados Australia Statement concerning the avocados deposited at the Tablelands Regional Council - Atherton green waste depot this week.

Low grade avocados were deposited at the Tablelands Regional Council- Atherton green waste depot this week. This fruit was *low grade* and could not be placed in the markets or processors.

This *low grade* product is basically a combination of process grade and other fruit with insect/ disease/ misshapen/ sunburn that may not be acceptable in process grade.

The fruit originates from the Mareeba area and the probable financial return in trying to place this fruit somewhere was so low as it would be difficult to even recover costs of labour, packaging, freight which all have increased significantly.

This activity is the result of low avocado prices/returns from 2 weeks ago that prompted this grower to cut further costs by just dumping the fruit at a facility close by. Where possible, avocado growers have been donating fruit to charities however when there is a lot of lower grade fruit it has been sent for processing or in this case composting.

John Tyas, the Chief Executive Officer of Avocados Australia, said *"it has been hard for growers to market their lower grade fruit this year due to the current over supply of Australian avocados, however, high quality avocados are still making their way to retail stores."*

What is Avocados Australia doing about the over supply of avocados:

- 1) Avocados Australia is working across the industry to increase domestic consumption.
- 2) Avocados Australia is working with the Australian Government to open new markets. We are supporting growers to increase their capacity and capability to export.

What can the Australian public do:

Support Australian avocado growers by buying Australian avocados in retail stores. Australian avocados are incredibly healthy and versatile and there are plenty of incentives (recipes) on the Australian Avocados website - <https://australianavocados.com.au/>

ENDS

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About Avocados Australia – www.avocado.org.au

Avocados Australia (AAL) is the representative industry body for the Australian avocado industry. We provide a range of services to our members and the broader industry to foster growth and development. Avocados Australia is a not-for-profit member-based organisation and our members include avocado growers, 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.