

LEVY TOOLKIT

REFRESHER: WHAT IS THE LEVY?



Production nurseries pay a levy on the wholesale value of all containers plants are grown in for resale or in producing other goods.



Currently, the levy is set at 5% of the value of these containers. Hort Innovation manages most of the nursery levy funds for research and development (R&D) (2.75%) and marketing (2%) project investments. A smaller proportion (0.25%) is managed by Plant Health Australia (PHA) for plant health and biosecurity activities.



The Australian Government matches 1:1 all funds contributed to research and development, which provides an immediate 2:1 return on grower levies.

Who pays the levy and how?

You pay the levy if you:

- buy containers (for example, pots, bags and trays) to produce 'potted' plants
- place nursery products in growing medium in containers or buy containers on behalf of someone who does this.

Also, if you buy containers from an overseas seller and use them to produce potted plants, you must lodge a return and make a levy payment to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

If you sell the containers or import containers for your own use, you must register with DAFF to receive a unique Levy Revenue Service (LRS) number, and lodge levy returns to the LRS.

[Register with DAFF.](#)

Who manages the levy?

The Australian Government collects the levy, tops it up with matching funding and then entrusts it to Hort Innovation. Hort Innovation is a research and development corporation. Its role is to work with each levy-paying sector to determine how the levies should be invested.

The nursery industry levy program is facilitated by Hort Innovation. It is funded by the nursery products R&D and marketing levy. The Australian Government provides matched funding for all Hort Innovation R&D activities.

In collaboration with Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) and the state nursery and garden industry associations, Hort Innovation helps businesses in the nursery industry by investing the nursery products levy in targeted programs. Priorities for this investment follow the objectives of the [Nursery Strategic Investment Plan 2022-2026](#).



How to submit an idea

To maintain a thriving and sustainable nursery industry, it's vital we are continually innovating and developing to drive the industry forward. Every levy payer is entitled to have their say on how the nursery funds are invested and what projects would be most beneficial to business and the industry overall.

To involve levy payers more directly in the investment decision making process, the nursery sector's national peak body, GIA, will manage the nursery levy investment process.

Three expert panels, drawn from the nursery sector, will consider investment proposals. We will manage panel meetings; Hort Innovation will govern them; and an appropriately qualified professional who is independent of both organisations will chair them.

Both GIA and Hort Innovation will communicate decisions about which investment proposals are supported and how the projects that receive funding are progressing.

State nursery associations will be involved in helping to generate investment ideas and communicate the outcomes of projects that receive investment funding.

How you can participate

GIA and Hort Innovation are currently calling for expressions of interest from levy payers who would like to be considered for membership on the:

- R&D Levy Investment Committee
- Marketing Levy Investment Committee
- GIA R&D Ideas Committee

You can apply via the GIA website at: <https://www.greenlifeindustry.com.au/communications-centre/committee-applications>

If you have levy investment ideas, start by contacting your state association.

Industry snapshot



The Australian nursery industry is expected to **grow by 14.1%** over the next seven years, to reach a value of **\$3.1 billion by 2030**.

In 2022-23, the industry supported **23,500 people employed as full time, part time or casual workers** (equivalent to 20,000 full time employees).



The industry enhances **wellbeing, sustainability, health and biodiversity conservation** in Australian communities.

This data is drawn from the Nursery Levy funded *Economic Contribution of Australian Horticulture project (MT21010)*.