

# Horticulture

## Horticulture

### Code of Conduct

**HAC 07** That the NSW Farmers Association:

- a) Request from the appropriate government body funding, for bi lingual facilitators and solicitors, to perform educational sessions on the Horticulture Code of Conduct for the Non English Speaking Background (NESB) farming communities.
- b) That both the NESB and the English sessions be videoed and copied on to a CD.
- c) That Horticulture Australia Limited is requested to fund the national distribution of the CD to the relevant language groups of horticultural farmers

**HAC 08:** That the Association takes urgent measures to require the ACCC to be more effective in its enforcement of the Horticulture Code of Conduct

**HAC 04** That the Association support a compulsory Retail Grocery Industry Code of Conduct prescribed under the Trade Practices Act.

**HAC 02** That NSW Farmers Association seeks a legislated Retail Industry Code of Conduct with explicit provisions that empower the Retail Industry Ombudsman to investigate disputed transactions, to require written agreements where requested and to clarify respective responsibilities in regards to produce rejected by retailers.

**HAC 07** That in the period leading to the review of the Horticulture Code of Conduct the Association secures the support of the NFF and HAC for an amendment to the Code that removes the ability of merchants to agree price for horticultural produce after delivery

**HAC 04** That the Association pursue with the utmost vigour the Buck recommendation for reform of the Retail Grocery Industry Code of Conduct.

### Farm Chemicals

**HAC 04:** That the Federal and State Governments jointly agree to make funding available for the FarmBis subsidy on chemical course upgrades and full courses, which has now been discontinued.

**H Feb 01:** That the Association support the principle of designated National Prescribed Chemicals (NPCs) but only where such chemicals are determined by the National Registration Authority (NRA) on the basis of scientific evidence that they pose a significant high risk to human health etc.

**HAC 06:** That the Association support NSW horticulture producers in seeking uniform and consistent chemical minor use regulation across all the States.

**HAC 95** That changes in regulation or law governing farm chemicals be communicated to those who had completed the National Farm Chemical User Training Programme via formal amendments to the Programme's Reference Manual.

**HAC 01:** That NSW Farmers' request the NRA to give consideration to directing additional resources to processing minor use permits.

**HAC 00** That the Association seek that any requirement for the recording of spray applications not include uses which involve small volumes of chemical, that are applied directly to small area, and pose no risk of harm or injury to any neighbour.

### Farm Chemicals Notification of Neighbours

**H Nov 00** That the Association endorse the proposed pesticide notification regulation with the amendment that notification of pesticides spraying only be required during school's hours of operation.

### Fire Blight

**07 Mar EC:** That the Association support the Australian apple and pear industry call for a Senate inquiry into the Import Risk Assessment Appeals Process (IRAAP) rejection of appeals on the apple Import Risk Assessment (IRA).

**HAC 00:** That the Association seek that the NSW Government prevent pome fruit sourced from countries that have fire blight from entering NSW thereby maintaining the state's fire blight free status.

### Flying Foxes

**HAC 06:** That the Association fund a legal opinion, from a suitably qualified senior legal counsel, as to the possibility of success of a legal action, preferably as a class action but singly if necessary, against both the NSW and Federal Governments, by fruit growers in NSW who have and still are suffering increasing losses of income due to the damage to their crops by the Grey Headed Flying Fox, which is protected under both NSW and Federal legislation.

## Flying Foxes

orchard netting noting that

- (i) such netting is required for crop protection, and
- (ii) the absence of such insurance will limit the ability of farmers to afford such netting.

**HC Jan 04** That the Association seek Government commitment to a range of options to manage flying fox damage to orchards in NSW including but not limited to netting subsidies, remuneration for damaged fruit and industry restructure.

## Food safety

**HAC 99** That NSW Farmers' Association demand that supermarkets implement the same standard of quality assurance in their fresh produce retail outlets that they demand from producers, and that this standard be Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Point (HACCP) based and independently audited.

**HAC 99:** That the Association seek to have Woolworths accept recognised quality assurance schemes without imposing additional company requirements where the schemes are Hazard Analysis And Critical Control Point (HACCP) based and independently.

**HAC 08:** That the Association write to the Organic Federation of Australian to seek the details of the HACCP procedure used by its growers to ensure that the produce they sell is safe for Human consumption

## Horticulture Committee

**HAC 06:** That the election of the Horticulture Committee Chair automatically entitle the election of the same person to fill one (1) of the two (2) Executive Council positions which are allocated to the Horticulture Section under the Constitution of the Association and that this occur with the concurrence of the elected chairman.

**HAC 07** That a review be conducted of the appropriateness of the section's current structure with reference to the geographic spread of, and memberships in, it's seven District Councils

## Horticulture Netting Structures Disaster Relief

**HAC 08:** That the Association speak to Banking Australia regarding special conservations loan for hail netting structure, to explain necessity to allow covenant to go over first mortgage in this situation, which would benefit the banks

**HAC 05** That NSW Farmers Association support apple growers in approaching the NSW State Government to allow growers to install hail netting on a proportion of their orchard and this be financed by low interest loans with terms similar to disaster relief funds and those growers who utilize these funds not be able to access 'disaster relief' funds in future years of hail damage.

**HAC 08:** That the Association lobby the NSW Minister for Agriculture to allow owners that lease orchards to obtain the special conservation loan for hail netting in own right with suitable security

## Imports

**HAC 08** Immediate action should be taken by the Federal Government to stop the increasing number of horticultural products entering Australia

**HAC 03** That the horticultural section of the NSW Farmers' Association lobby to protect NSW growers of fresh fruit and vegetables against unfair and unsafe competition from similar products either dumped or placed on local markets in normal times or in times of natural disasters such as flood, hail and drought – thereby causing more financial losses to horticulturists in an industry which, under normal circumstances, is self-supporting.

**EC March 08:** That the Association object in the strongest terms to the letter from NFF President David Crombie to Minister McGauran urging the government to immediately finalise plans to import New Zealand apples into Australia.

**HAC 01** That NSW Farmers' Association continue to lobby the Federal Government to contain the dumping of Chinese apple concentrate onto the Australian market.

## Industrial

**HAC 99** That NSW Farmers' Association express its concern at the short supply of harvest labour for horticultural industries and through the current review process seek that the Federal Government remove the legal obligation of growers to confirm the immigration status of their employees.

**HAC 01** That NSW Farmers' Industrial Section liaise with local growers in relation to the proposed changes to the Award.

**HAC 04** That the Association requests the Horticulture Australia Council to lobby the Federal Government to have superannuation legislation amended within the life of the current Parliament to provide that:  
(i) the minimum threshold of \$450 per month for payment of superannuation be adjusted to \$2200 per quarter on paper burden grounds;

## Industrial

- (ii) the threshold be indexed to adjustments in the Federal minimum wage;
- (iii) twelve months after their remittance, uncollected funds be applied to the public interest.

**HAC 08** All farmers, farm contractors and their employees should be exempt from the costs for the new five-year renewal of forklift and front-end loader licences

**HAC 08** That NSW Farmers Assoc. lobby both State and Federal bureaucrats and if necessary, politicians to change the current rules concerning Backpackers extending their work/travel visa by working on regional farms. As the rules currently stand, the postcode of the farm determines whether work on the farm in question can qualify a backpacker for the 3 months required for an extension

**HAC 01** That NSW Farmers' Association generate an employee pro forma induction agreement for Horticulture.

**HAC 00** That the NSW Farmers' Association assist horticulture members to put in place a useable format for a document that grower employers can use as a basis for workplace agreements with employees, including piecework, work practices and safety etc.

**HAC 99** That NSW Farmers' Association keeps lobbying the NSW Government on the ever-increasing cost of Workers' Compensation Insurance premiums.

## Levies

**HAC 01** That NSW Farmers' oppose any levies on sales of fresh produce imposed by retailers.

**HAC 99** That NSW Farmers' Association seek that all future levies and levy increases that are to be imposed against primary producers, be subject to comprehensive consultation processes that give detailed information concerning aims and objectives together with anticipated advantages. When a levy increase is applied for, an audited statement detailing collections of the existing levy for the past two years must be made available to all producers involved in that industry.

## Pest control

**HAC 08** That the horticultural industries support the bee industry in their fight to keep varroa mite from entering this country

**HAC 05** That the NSW Farmers' Association pressure the State and Federal Governments to implement schemes designed to encourage and support growers in protecting their crops from weather and pest damage

## Price Publishing

**EC March 08:** That the Association investigate the potential establishment of a web site to display actual prices received by producers at farm gate.

## Product Labelling

**HAC06** That the Association lobby the Government for Mandatory Country of Origin Labelling for all cut flowers.

**HAC 01** That NSW Farmers' Association seek national support to have the Government enforce the Truth in Labelling legislation with respect to package

**HAC 04** That the prospect of legislation identifying country in which food was grown and packed for retail sale "both fresh and processed" then sold around Australia being repealed would be a disaster to the horticultural industry.

## Quarantine

**HAC 00** That the Association seek that AQIS import permits for horticultural products such as bananas not be granted when the applying country has a history of pest and disease outbreaks that could decimate the Australian industry if introduced.

**HAC 04** That owing to the flawed conclusions being arrived at by Biosecurity that vitally affect the horticulture industry in Australia we direct the Federal Government to completely reconstruct Biosecurity and make it as it used to be attached to AQIS.

**HAC 96** That NSW Farmers' Association seek a ban on importation of second-hand and 'demonstrator' horticultural production and harvesting machinery in an effort to reduce the risk of introducing an exotic pest or disease.

## Research

**HAC 08** That the NSW Farmers Association lobby the NSW Government to retain the positions of Plant Bacteriologist and Bacterial Diagnosticians positions at the Department of Primary Industries

**EC Oct 08:** That the NSW Farmers' Association lobby the NSW Government and Federal Government to oppose CSIRO plans to close the Merbein Horticulture Research Laboratory.

## Research

Orange Agricultural Research Station with possible relocation to the Charles Sturt University Campus in Orange.

## Right to Farm

HAC 99 That NSW Farmers' Association seek as a matter of urgency the support of the Local Government Association for a notice to be given routinely by councils in the s149 advice to prospective purchasers of rural residential properties advising them that their amenity may be affected by legitimate and pre-existing farming activity, and that they should be informed about, and take into consideration, those activities in their purchasing decision.

## Trade

HAC 02 That the NSW Farmers' Association ask Government's market access Committee to immediately initiate protocol so as to accelerate access into all emerging markets, eg. China, India, Korea and USA.

**HAC 01** That the NSW Farmers' Association highlight to the relevant Minister the unfair trading practices for the trading of fruit interstate, specifically that NSW growers can not send fruit to South Australia due to Q Fly, but South Australia can send to NSW markets when it has been known and publicised that in that state Med Fly is present.

**HAC 98** That the Association seek that the Federal Government identify subsidised agricultural products that are imported into Australia and impose a countervailing duty on these products that is equivalent to the subsidy (in Australian dollar terms) and that this duty be applied immediately.

## Training and Education

HAC 96 That the Association recognise the importance of tertiary horticultural education and research by encouraging the retention of existing university facilities in the discipline and actively promoting the further development of courses appropriate to the industry.

## Water

**HAC 98** That the Association seek that horticultural producers have access to subsidies for the construction of farm dams for irrigation similar to the current arrangements for dams for stock and domestic purposes.

**HAC 06** That the Association pressure the State and Federal Governments to implement schemes which provide assistance by way of grant or rebate to convert from diesel powered pumps to cost efficient electrical powered irrigation systems.

**HAC 08** That the Association oppose the implementation of calculated volumetric allocations on surface water dams in the Sydney Basin

**HAC 99** That NSW Farmers' Association seek assurances from Department of Land and Water Conservation (DWLC) that perennial plantings will be allowed to use their historical source and amount of water as per normal industry practice.

## International Trade

### Trade Policy

**05 Oct EC** That the Association:

1. recognise that the growth in the volume of imported produce represents a major threat to sectors of Australia's horticulture industry; and
2. consequently, endorse as policy that the Federal Government should accept the following means of moderating the economic impact of those imports:
  - a) amendment of the Australia and New Zealand Food Standards Code to require mandatory country of origin labelling of all imported horticultural produce, including produce that is fresh, frozen, canned, juice or juice concentrate, and effective enforcement of the Code by State and Territory governments;
  - b) amendment of the Trade Practices Act guidelines to require that the "characterising ingredients" as defined in Standard 1.2.10 of the Code be specified by both percentage of content and country of origin;
  - c) food safety standards, and compliance documentation, for such produce equivalent to that required for domestic produce, including in regard to pesticide and microbiological levels;
  - d) an effective means of tracing all imported produce landed in Australia to its overseas supplier in the event of a health or biosecurity problem being detected after landing;
  - e) acceptance of a duty of care to parties adversely affected by a pest/disease outbreak that can be reasonably attributed to the entry of horticultural produce and where the Government has been presented with a credible case prior to the import being agreed that that this was likely to occur;
  - f) the use of WTO-approved measures such as temporary quotas or tariffs where it can be shown that (i) dumping is occurring or the volume/price of (ii) the import endangers the viability of a local industry; and
  - g) Government funding to assist growers in industries that are rendered unviable because of imported produce to exist their industries.