Organic Industries

A voice for Australia's organic industries

Policy Partners

# Consultation Workshops

September — October 2017

# The Project

1

## Australian Organic Industry Working Group

- 30+ industry leaders collaborating

2

## Main objective

- Present a harmonised voice to Governments
- One outcome could be a new national peak body

3

## Project manager

- Policy Partners
- Conference with Government
- Workshop with the AOIWG
- Open communication channels
- Regional consultations
- Roadmap—end September

# Objectives

| | |
|---|---|
| Explain | the project and process to organic producers in a range of regional locations |
| Understand | what the views are of a broad cross-section of organic producers |
| Gauge | the likely support for a new peak body—both political and financial support |
| Determine | whether there is a preferred model for a possible new peak body |
| Determine | the speed of reform that organic producers might be comfortable with |

Value creation and a compelling business case

Membership and corporate structure

Standards and integrity

Market access

Improving R&D coordination and innovation

Planning for growth and industry development

Review of the *Export Control Act*

# Themes

# Value creation and a compelling business case

1

Must launch and maintain a compelling business case which generates real and continuing value

2

Value is generated through providing services and functions

- Members
- Potential members
- Other stakeholders

3

**Results-oriented actions and achievements around issues of key importance to members and stakeholders**

# Membership and corporate structure

- In agriculture, many different types of peak body:
  - Commodity based, eg Cotton Australia
  - Supply chain based, eg Red Meat Advisory Council
  - Thematic, eg National Irrigators
  - Overarching, eg NFF, VFF
- National representation and lobbying requires specific skills and resources
  - Running an office
  - Specialists – policy analysts, lobbyists, communications
  - Overt and covert influencing
  - Membership democracy

# Standards and integrity

| | |
|---|---|
| Prescribe | to growers what is allowed and not allowed to be practised or used in growing the crop and stock, and provide details about inputs allowed or disallowed |
| Prescribe | to others in the food chain, such as processors, transporters, importers and exporters, which processes and substances are allowed in the pursuit of their activities |
| Indicate | to consumers how organic products are produced |
| Allow | legislators and regulators to facilitate compliance through regulation |

# Review of the *Export Control Act*

- The *Export Control Act* will expire after 30 June 2020
- Regulation of organic exports is unique
  - based on parameters of quality of production
  - not sanitary/phytosanitary concerns
- Govt review underway
  - Report by 30 June 2018
  - Organic industry separate treatment
- In the absence of specific domestic regulation for organic production, the export regulation of organics has become the default domestic regulation of the sector.

# Market access

- Commonwealth Government
  - Multi-latereral trade
  - Bilateral trade agreements
  - Technical barriers to trade
- Forms of market access
  - Harmonisation
  - Equivalency
  - Mutual recognition
  - Conformity assessment
- Industry responsible for exploiting opportunities

# Improving R&D coordination and innovation

Australia’s organic industries are diverse, spanning bioregions, industry types with many kinds of products and production systems

Challenge of diversity: how to organise and coordinate R&D and sponsor innovation?

A peak body may be useful in playing a role in coordinating the relevant agricultural agencies and RDCs

# Planning for growth and industry development

- certified organic operations in 2016 up 5%
- 1,163 certified processors
- 513 certified handlers
- 53% of the world's organic farmland by area
- tonnage exported up 17%
- $1.7 billion (includes post farm gate value add)
  - $1.4 billion exports
  - $300 million domestic
- In 2014 Sweden up 40% in an established market

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# Wrap up