

2021 Policy Priorities for Fresh Produce

1. Securing an Agricultural Workforce

- Implement a “Horticulture Careers for Young Australians” career pathway
- Increase the visas granted under the Seasonal Worker Programme to 20,000 (up from 14,000 annually)
- Implement a Harvest Work Visa – granting 10,000 visas to individuals to work in fresh produce for 9 months

2. Export led growth: Trade and Market Access

- Prioritise new technical market access for fresh produce with key trading partners as a strategic objective for the Australian Government

3. National Management of Fruit Fly

- Eradicate Medfly from Western Australia
- Secure the Tasmanian and Riverland (South Australia) Pest Free Areas (PFAs)
- Adopt irradiation as an interstate treatment for fruit fly within Australia

4. Water Sustainability

- Fund the development of new water storage in key growing regions
- Support the adoption of recycled water for irrigation in key growing regions adjacent to metropolitan centres

5. Food Waste, Packaging and Recycling

- Support industry driven initiatives to reduce food waste, adapt packaging, and improve recycling

6. Focus on Research and Development

- Refocus Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited and fresh produce R&D more broadly on fresh produce strategic issues: sustainability, trade, biosecurity, food safety and pollination

7. Product Integrity

- Develop a Food Safety Centre of Excellence to deliver industry led training to upskill business and workforce on food safety requirements

8. Pollination

- Allow the use of existing populations of bumblebees in Tasmania in trials as pollinators within glasshouses and enclosed production systems

