

FACT SHEET

Fruit and Nut (Research Development and Extension Trust Fund) Repeal Bill

The purpose of this Bill is to repeal the *Fruit and Nut (Research Development and Extension Trust Fund) Act 2012*.

This Act was created to continue to distribute residual funds from the Tasmanian Fruit Crop Insurance Scheme to the State's fruit and nut growers.

The residual funds from the scheme have been fully dispersed to industry, fulfilling the object of the Act. It is a formality to repeal the Act and wind-up the Trust Fund.

The Bill includes standard provisions to wind up the Trust Fund and the administering Board of Management.

The Crown will assume responsibility for any unresolved or future proceedings (legal or other) brought against or initiated by the Board of Management.

Fruit Growers Tasmania, the State's peak industry body for fruit and nut growers, fully supports the Bill and has been consulted on the draft legislation.

The Government is continuing to collaborate with Fruit Growers Tasmania to provide support to the State's fruit and nut industry, which had a farm gate value of close to \$154 million in 2016-17.

The 2017-18 State Budget committed \$1.2 million for a new Strategic Industry Partnerships Program to support regional communities and businesses by investing in peak industry bodies to drive growth and innovation across the Tasmanian agri-food sector.

As part of the Strategic Industry Partnerships Program, the Government is providing Fruit Growers Tasmania with \$120 000 over three years to deliver a fruit industry development program that provides on-ground extension support for growers. This includes assisting in grower export preparation and communication around biosecurity and quarantine protocols.

In addition, as part of its Taking Agriculture to the Next Level policy, the Government is providing the State's fruit and vegetable industry with \$550 000 over four years for horticulture market and trade development.