

# Media Release

### 19 February 2010

#### For immediate release

### **Composition of Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee announced**

AUSVEG Communications Manager, Hugh Tobin, today welcomed the new appointments to the Vegetable Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) announced by Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL).

AUSVEG is the national peak industry body representing the interests of around 7,000 vegetable growers around Australia

The Vegetable IAC makes important recommendations to HAL about how the National Vegetable Levy should be invested to best meet the needs of the vegetable industry.

Mr Tobin said that all applicants had been through a comprehensive application process.

"The calibre of the applicants for the committee has been of an extremely high standard," Mr Tobin said.

"The collective expertise of the new committee members includes those who've had extensive experience in reading and reviewing R & D project proposals and undertaking research, as well as in business management, science and trade in vegetables," he said.

## The composition of the new Vegetable IAC will be as follows:

- Mr Kent West (Queensland)
- Mr Roger Turner (Victoria)
- Dr Melina Parker (Tasmania)
- Mr Danny De Ieso (South Australia)
- Ms Denise Ellement (Western Australia)
- Mr Peter Ward (New South Wales)

"The calibre of the new committee members will serve to enhance the work of the IAC and represents an excellent combination of intellectual strength and tertiary qualifications, grower and local network knowledge," Mr Tobin said.

HAL uses the National Vegetable Levy and matched funds through the Federal Government to fund research and development conducted by a range of service providers, including research agencies, tertiary institutions and industry bodies.

Membership of the Vegetable IAC is recommended to HAL by AUSVEG.

Mr Tobin thanked the outgoing members of the Vegetable IAC for their service and support of the industry over the past few years.

The announcement of the new vegetable committee follows the recent appointment of Mr Peter Deuter to the position of independent chair of Vegetable IAC in January.

#### **ENDS**

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