



Senator the Hon. Richard Colbeck

**Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Senator for Tasmania**

MEDIA RELEASE

Vegetable farm financial survey released

The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) has begun the 12th Australian Hort Innovation vegetable-growing industry survey, gathering information to help Australia's \$3.9 billion vegetable growing industry manage challenges and plan for the future.

Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Senator Richard Colbeck, said the survey results provide a national and state-by-state picture of the vegetable-growing industry and highlight the importance of the industry to the Australian economy.

"The Australian vegetable growing sector is an important source of food and a major contributor to jobs and the Australian economy," Minister Colbeck said.

"Investing consistently in information and tools that the industry needs to make the decisions will define the future success for the vegetable sector in Australia.

"Government and industry invest over \$600 million annually in research and development and extension through our rural research and development corporations like Hort Innovation.

"The survey collects data about production, financial performance and socio-economic characteristics of approximately 300 vegetable growing farms, providing accurate information to industry and government to ensure research and development initiatives are effectively targeted.

"Topics that will be covered this year include farm structure, land use, production, capital, income, costs, debts, assets and farm labour for the 2017–18 financial year, and selected estimates for 2018–19.

"It is the fourth most valuable agricultural industry in Australia, valued at \$3.9 billion in 2016–17, and is also the backbone of many rural and regional economies and communities.

"It contributes significantly to the strength of our horticulture sector, which is forecast to be valued at \$12 billion by 2022–23.

“The survey is an important research and development initiative the Australian Government and Hort innovation are delivering to guide future growth for the industry.”

The 2019 survey began on 4 March and is expected to be completed by May. The results will be released in September 2019.

Results from the past eleven surveys of vegetable growing farms are available here: <http://www.agriculture.gov.au/abares/research-topics/surveys/vegetables>

Fast Facts:

- **ABARES conducts the vegetable growing farm survey annually.**
- **The vegetable industry survey is a joint strategic levy investment between the Hort Innovation Vegetable Fund, Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and the Australian Government.**
- **The survey is part of ongoing research into how the industry adapts to changing environmental and market factors, which affect production and profitability.**

Media contact

Felix Ellis, 0457 517 734