



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine
and Inspection Service

AQIS Fact Sheet

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The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee

What is the Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee?

The Horticulture Exports Consultative Committee (HECC) is the principal advisory forum for the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) to consult with the horticulture industry. The committee deals with all issues relevant to horticulture exports, including quarantine, certification and market conditions.

The committee is made up of people who have experience of the horticulture industry, with secretariat services provided by staff from AQIS. Members are selected to ensure that the HECC has the right mix of skills to give high level strategic, operational and commercial advice to AQIS.

Typically, members have knowledge of, and experience in:

- export processes including certification, compliance and importing country requirements
- production of horticultural commodities such as fruit, vegetables, nursery stock and cut flowers for export
- freight forwarding
- industry market access policy

What does the HECC do?

Within the Government's framework for delivering Quarantine and Export Inspection services, the committee:

- acts as the peak industry consultative group between AQIS and the export horticulture industry on operational, policy and strategic issues
- considers and provides advice to AQIS on relevant matters in the horticulture industry

- acts as an effective conduit for information exchange between the horticulture industry and AQIS on export issues.

The committee considers:

- strategic directions for the AQIS programs relevant to horticulture exports
- significant proposed changes to policy and operational procedures
- adequacy of AQIS resources allocation for market access and market maintenance
- Horticulture Exports Programs budgets, cost recovery mechanisms and charge levels
- key program performance issues such as efficiency and effectiveness indicators.

How does the committee work?

The committee meets three times a year, alternating between AQIS's Canberra office and regional locations.

Membership is for three years, at which time members may apply for a second term.

Three sub-committees exist under the HECC:

- Finance
- Operational Review
- Communications



Sub-committee meetings are held by teleconference three times a year – in February, June and September.