



# MVCB Weekly News

30th July 2013

[www.mvcitrus.org.au](http://www.mvcitrus.org.au)

## Murray Valley Citrus Board

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### Diary Dates:

3rd – 10<sup>th</sup> August  
Mildura City Heart  
Zest Fest

### HAL Review

Horticulture Australia Limited (HAL) is set to commission a review of the model under which it works, in order to maximize the return from Australian horticulture's investment in market and research and development.

As part of a requirement under HAL's Statutory Funding Agreement (SFA) with the Government, HAL has decided to conduct a full review of the organization, including its structure.

The SFA with the Commonwealth Government requires that a review of the organisation's performance be completed six months prior to its expiry. The next review must be completed by May 2014.

In order to set HAL up for a long-term future, the HAL Board, with the support of Members and guidance from Government, is preparing broad terms of reference for the performance review.

The performance review will include an examination of the HAL service delivery model against the benchmark of good governance practice. The review will include the membership structure of HAL, the nature and transparency of funding arrangements and its ability to deliver services in an efficient and effective manner while meeting the future and strategic demands of fast growing industry sectors.

The review will also closely examine the efficiency of the existing levy structures and process by which levies are conceived, implemented, collected and expensed.

The review will be conducted by an independent organization yet to be appointed. HAL will appoint a steering committee comprising levy payers, HAL members, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, HAL and Rural Research and Development Corporation experts, to provide advice and guidance to the review. An independent person will chair the steering committee.

A meeting of the HAL Board on August 1, 2013 will consider the terms of reference for the review, as well as a timeline for delivery.

### R&D Suggestions for the Citrus Industry



Following from last week's newsletter, below is Dr Pat Barkley's second suggestion for future R&D for the citrus industry.

#### Health Benefits of Citrus:

Most people link the health benefits of citrus with vitamin C and warding off colds. But there are an increasing number of scientific reports of other benefits from citrus fruits and juices. In 2001 the citrus Industry Advisory Committee commissioned CSIRO to review the health benefits of citrus fruits (CT01037).

The report states:

*"The health benefits of citrus consumption are clear. They are nutrient-dense foods with abundant vitamins and minerals, fibre and phytochemicals without fat or salt and are not energy-dense. This latter consideration is of great importance in countries like Australia*

where obesity (and as a result Type 2 diabetes) is reaching epidemic proportions”.

“Key promotional messages could centre around citrus being:

- A “weight control package” (nutrient rich while not fattening)
- Not only a source of vitamin C but a range of antioxidants (with vitamin C pills you only get part of the benefit)
- A good source of folate for Mums to be (*spina bifida*) but also for the rest of the family (re cancer/heart)
- A blood pressure control package (high potassium, low salt plus indirectly through body weight control)
- A cancer protective package (folate, fibre, phytochemicals, vitamins C & A)
- A heart disease package (folate, fibre, phytochemicals, antioxidants)
- An infection control package (antioxidants, including Vitamin C, anti-inflammatories)”.

**CSIRO recommended partnering with special medical interest groups** such as the National Heart Foundation, the Anti-Cancer Foundations in the states, Infant, Child and Adolescent health groups, Children’s Hospitals, Diabetes Australia, the Asthma Foundation etc **around specific nutrient/health issues.**