

_____ produces approximately 1 million tonnes of _____ annually representing 73% of _____. Processors serve as both agricultural levy collection agents for growers supplying to processing, and as collectors of the processor levy.

Making changes to agricultural levies involves extensive industry consultation and a meticulous process. The handling and allocation of these funds are subject to stringent governance requirements, ensuring transparency in investment decisions and rigorous evaluation processes to guarantee responsible use and genuine impact. In contrast, the Federal Government has imposed a new policy without engaging in any consultation or plans to provide ongoing reporting and evaluation around impact for the levy payers. This inconsistency leads to a sense of distrust and frustration.

Requesting producers to contribute more for biosecurity may not be the ideal solution, particularly when all Australians benefit from agricultural production. We urge the Federal Government to reconsider imposing this levy and instead explore avenues for enhancing internal efficiencies or imposing appropriate levies on those entities that pose the highest risk.

- There should be no levy imposed. However, if the government insists on imposing the levy, the definitions, rate, and collection methods should align with the agricultural levy.