



February 2024

Modernising the agricultural levies legislation

4.61 Rice levy

This fact sheet provides an overview of the rice levy as set out in the draft:

- Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Regulations
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Rules
- Primary Industries Levies and Charges Disbursement Rules.

These regulations and rules are part of a draft legislative framework and are provided for consultation and feedback. They can be accessed via the [Have Your Say website](#). The biosecurity protection levy is not established by this draft framework.

The draft legislation does not vary the practical operation of the levy, or what the levy would fund. It makes minor wording changes to improve the clarity of the levy. We have also streamlined payment dates and simplified record-keeping requirements.

Roles and obligations

The current legislation refers to the person collecting the levy as an intermediary. The draft legislation calls these people collection agents. The rules for payments, giving returns and record-keeping are clearly set out for levy payers and collection agents, making it easier to understand what to do.

Imposition of levy

Levy is imposed on rice that is harvested in Australia and delivered to a processing establishment in Australia.

The term 'produced' has been changed to 'harvested' because it is easier to understand when levy has been imposed.

Exemption from levy

There is no exemption from the rice levy.

Rate of levy

The rate of levy on rice has not changed. GST is not applied to rates. The rates are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Rate of levy on rice

Rice levy component	Rate of levy
Research and development (R&D)	\$5.94 per tonne of the rice
Biosecurity activity	6 cents per tonne of the rice
Biosecurity response	0 cents per tonne of the rice

Levy payer

- 1) The levy on rice is payable by:
 - a) the person who owns the rice immediately after it is harvested unless paragraph b) applies; or
 - b) if a law of a State, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory vests the rice in a person or body, or in the Crown in right of that State or Territory, at or before the time the rice is harvested—the person who would have owned the rice immediately after it is harvested but for that law.

Note: The *Rice Marketing Act 1983* (NSW) is a law of this kind, enabling ownership of rice produced in New South Wales to be vested in the Rice Marketing Board for the state of New South Wales.

Collecting the levy

The collection agent for the rice levy is the proprietor of the processing establishment where the rice is delivered. The collection agent collects and pays the levy to us (the Commonwealth) on behalf of the levy payer.

If the proprietor of the processing establishment owns the rice immediately after it is harvested, they would pay the levy directly to us.

Payment of levy

The rice levy is due and payable 6-monthly for the periods beginning on 1 January and 1 July. In the draft legislation, 6-monthly returns for rice are due before the end of the first calendar month after the end of the 6-month period when the rice was delivered.

Example: A 6-monthly return for rice delivered in the period between 1 January–30 June would be due before the end of 31 July.

Details of what to include in your returns would be outlined on our website and through [Levies Online](#).

Disbursement of levy funds

The rice levy funds would be disbursed in accordance with the draft Primary Industries Levies and Charges Disbursement Rules. The levy funds would continue to be paid to the same organisations and be used for the same purposes as they are now:

- The R&D levy component would be paid to AgriFutures Australia.
- The biosecurity activity levy component would be paid to Plant Health Australia.
- The biosecurity response levy component is currently set to nil but would be paid to Plant Health Australia if the rate was increased.

More information

Information on the common elements for levies and charges is in fact sheet *3.1 Draft regulations and rules overview*.

Learn more about [modernising agricultural levies legislation](#).

Email leviestaskforce@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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