



Trialling packhouse—grower commercial arrangements to meet trading partner requirements

We know some packhouses have commercial arrangements with growers to ensure good on-farm practices are in place.

We are looking at whether these commercial arrangements will meet our legislative and trading partners' requirements for exporting produce free from pests and diseases.

How we meet importing country requirements now

Our trading partners need proof that Australia's exports are free from pests and diseases. We do on-farm audits to help us certify that produce meets importing country requirements.

Some commercial arrangements already ensure that:

- pests and diseases are well controlled
- farm hygiene is maintained
- growers meet chemical application requirements.

We are assessing whether these types of commercial arrangements could meet the requirements of our trading partners and Australia's export legislation.

What the trial involves

We are trialling using a citrus packhouse's grower management system to check:

- pest monitoring activities
- chemical applications
- farm hygiene.

We developed the trial with Citrus Australia.

Six citrus packhouses in NSW, South Australia and Victoria are taking part in the trial from March until August 2022.

Potential benefits

If our trading partners accept a packhouse's commercial arrangements with their growers, we could reduce the government presence on-farm

These are some potential benefits:

- packhouses could save time by not having to coordinate grower audits
- packhouses could use their existing grower management system to meet the department's requirements
- growers could save on the cost of audits and spend less time with auditors.



What happens after the trial

If the trial is successful and trading partners accept the model, we will look to change our audit approach for the citrus industry to recognise packhouses who meet certain criteria to manage the on-farm practices of their supply growers.

An opportunity for change

This is an exciting opportunity to streamline Australia's export practices. If the trial is successful, it could mean fewer on-farm audits while maintaining confidence that we meet our trading partners requirements.

We may also be able to expand the changes to other horticultural industries that have appropriate commercial grower supply management systems.

Contact us

If you have questions about the trial email us at congestionbustingplant@agriculture.gov.au

Reforms in agricultural export trade

We are transforming Australia's agricultural trade export services, making more services available online, streamlining processes for producers to export and safeguarding Australia's reputation as a reliable, high-quality exporter.

Over \$450 million is being invested in trade reform initiatives. This includes \$328.4 million for the Busting Congestion for Agricultural Exporters package to grow and strengthen the agricultural export sector.

When fully implemented the reforms will reduce costs and the compliance burden on exporters.

The reforms will also ensure Australian products are of the highest standard and meet our trading partners' requirements.

Visit our website to learn more: awe.gov.au/transforming-export-services