australian almonds

ANNUAL REPORT 2025/2026

Contents

ABA Mission

As the Australian almond industry's peak body, the Almond Board of Australia facilitates further development of the industry, seeks to maximise its profitability and ensure its sustainability by providing a platform for industry members to collectively respond to industry wide issues, invest in research and marketing, share knowledge, and interact with government and other stakeholders.

ABA Purpose

The ABA is an incorporated association and operates as guided by its constitution to:

- represent and promote the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers in matters of general interest that may affect the wellbeing and viability of the industry.
- co-ordinate the efforts of the industry in order to give unity of purpose and strength to foster the development of the industry.
- provide a channel for communication and dissemination of information between members of the industry and other sectors of the horticultural industry.
- facilitate the development of a national industry development plan including the definition of national R&D priorities and generic marketing funding and priorities.

ABA Funding

ABA activities are funded through a combination of sources:

- membership fees and sponsorships
- voluntary market development levy
- sales of almond budwood
- rootstock and almond variety royalties
- project funding from industry levies and contributions matched by the Federal Government via Hort Innovation Australia Ltd
- additional grant funding sources

ABA Structure

The ABA Directors, committees, staff and stakeholders are all part of a dedicated team. We form collaborative partnerships with a diverse range of organisations, both nationally and internationally to progress the interests of almond industry members and the community.

ABA BOARD

Chair: Alan Hoppe

8 Grower Directors

Adelaide (1), Riverina (2), Swan (1), Riverland (2), Sunraysia (2)

4 Marketing Directors

ABA COMMITTEES

- Market Development
- Chemical
- Processing
- Almond Centre of Excellence
- Production
- Plant Improvement
- Audit And Risk
- Pollination
- Remuneration
- Water
- Sustainability

ABA Partnerships

By establishing partnerships the ABA can increase its capacity to achieve its strategic goals of increasing demand for almonds and ensuring input surety at a fair cost to industry members.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Hort Innovation · National Farmers Federation Horticulture Council · Australian Honey Bee Industry Council · National Irrigators' Council · NSWIC New South Wales Irrigators' Council · Plant Health Australia · INC international Nut&DriedFruit · Wheen Bee Foundation · ANIC australian nut industry council · associations forum · DAA Dietitians Association of Australia · nuts for life · SDA Sports Dietitians Australia · Nutrition Australia · frucom Worldwide Food Solutions

Research & Development

Hort Innovation's Almond Strategic Investment Advisory Panels (SIAP) provides strategic investment advice in relation to the research and development activities funded by industry levies and contributions from the Australian Government.

A new advice mechanism was implemented in 2023-24 to improve the engagement and consultation with levy payers through advisory committees and ABA Board to identify R, D & E priorities for the Australian almond industry. The SIAP guide the strategic investment set out in the Almond Industry's Strategic Investment Plan.

R&D investments using the research levies are made specifically on behalf of levy payers. These investments focus on the needs identified and prioritised by the industry. In general, strategic levy investments provide outputs that have a 1-5 year delivery timeframe and in the case of R&D, span a wide scope of investment types.

Hort Innovation ALMOND FUND

This project has been funded by Hort Innovation using the almond research and development levy and funds from the Australian Government. For more information on the fund and strategic levy investment visit horticulture.com.au

The following table lists projects receiving funding derived from the almond producers' R&D levy and matching Commonwealth funding.

2025/26 R&D LEVY FUNDED PROJECTS THROUGH HORT INNOVATION

Project	Project name
Projects Delivered by the ABA	
AL20001	Evaluation of potential prunus rootstocks for almond production - stage 3
AL22000	Evaluating self-fertile varieties in block plantings for almond growers
AL22001	Almond industry innovation and adoption program - phase two
AL22004	Almond market access and trade development 2023 – 2026 (completed)
AL22007	Almond industry statistics and data collection 2023 – 2025 (completed)
AL22008	Almond industry communications and events program
AL23000	Almond Centre of Excellence Operations and Maintenance
AL23001	Enabling the pathway to best sustainable management practices
AL23003	Growing Almond Leaders (collaborative project)
AL23004	Almond industry international study tours (completed)
AL24002	Almond Market Development and Market Access Project
Projects Delivered by other service providers	
AL21000	Pathway to carbon neutral – whole orchard recycling in almond orchards completed
AL21001	Optimising almond production systems
AL21004	Cover crops for soil health and productivity
AL22002	An integrated disease management program for the Australian almond industry – Phase 2
AL22003	An integrated pest management program for the Australian almond industry – Phase 2
AL22009	Australian almond variety evaluation program
AL23003	Growing Almond Leaders (collaborative project with ABA)
AL22009	Australian almond variety evaluation program
AL25001	Efficient almond orchard systems
AL25002	Pathway to carbon neutral whole orchard recycling in almond orchards - Phase 2
MT20007	Regulatory support and response coordination (pesticides) completed
MT21004	Consumer behavioural data program
MT21008	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program: Transition Program completed
PH25001	National Bee Pest Surveillance Program
MT22005	Horticulture trade data
MT24005	Horticulture Impact Assessment Program 2023/24 to 2025/26
MT24008	Regulatory Support & Response Co-ordination
MT24022	Nut biosecurity and implementation plan.
MT24201	Consumer usage and attitude tracking 25/26
MT25004	Mid-term reviews for Industry Development and Extension projects

Executive Report

Alan Hoppe, ABA Chair

Tim Jackson. Chief Executive Officer

The year 2025-26 has provided further clarity on the long-term future of the Australian almond industry as global production continued to level off and grower returns improved.

The industry's second LandIQ survey revealed that more than 70,000 hectares of plantings exist across the southern Murray Darling Basin and WA. The ongoing investment in the industry is based on market fundamentals that continue to attract new entrants.

The non-perishability of the product, the premium pricing, the land availability and the return per megalitre on farm continues to be ingredients that make for a compelling business case to get involved.

The NSW Riverina footprint alone has gone from three small family farms owned by the Callipari, Dinicola and Carlon families in the early 2000s to now more than 27% of the industry and growing.

The dairy stronghold of Victoria, the Goulburn Valley, has now emerged as the next growing region with the Liam Lenaghan's GoFarm vision driving investment based on dual ground and surface water reliability and ready access to horticultural expertise and labour in the district. The GoFarm investment has been considerable and locals are watching closely to assess the viability of embracing a tree-change to their operations.

Outside noise speculating that an almond boom will inevitably lead to a bust ignores the reality that Australia produces less than 10% of the world's almonds.

California produce almost three quarters of the globe's almond crop. In more recent times issues around water availability, costs of production and new environmental measures like the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act are impacting growers up and down the San Joaquin Valley.

In recent years Californian almond plantings have started to contract and yields have also fallen short of forecasts, leading to a global supply-demand dynamic that has swung back into more prosperous territory.

The experiences in Californian almonds in recent times remains a sage indicator for what risks could be faced here in Australia.

A recent ABA led study tour to the USA highlighted a number of areas where there is much to learn and collaborate with our trans-Pacific colleagues wherever possible to improve grower sustainability.

The ABA does not view the Californian industry as competition but rather a brother in arms as we tackle common pests and disease threats, ill-conceived perceptions that impact our social license to grow and the ever changing consumer landscape.

Costs of production have come into sharp focus on both sides of the Pacific. The Middle East war highlighted how fragile supply chains can be and the ramifications this has on farm. Fuel and fertiliser costs sky-rocketed during harvest. The diesel price increases are estimated to have added $1 million per week to the cost of our harvest.

Needless to say, increased expenses on farm are having a profound impact on all horticultural growers and doing more with less remains the holy grail for any research project.

Maximising yields with less inputs, less bees, less fuel, less labour, less water, less pests, less disease are day-to-day quests for all self-respecting growers.

At the ABA, the key role of staff is to ensure grower levies are maximised in research deliverables that help assist growers in this quest. Directors have devoted considerable time this year reviewing the board's role and have developed a new strategic plan that has four key pillars.

Advocacy, Governance, Productivity and Market Development are the key focus areas.

For the first time these pillars have been shared with Hort Innovation in advance of it updating the industry's strategic investment research and development plans. The R and D statutory levies collected by processors are managed by Hort Innovation and then matched by government to underpin almost 30 research projects.

The ability to work collaboratively with our RDC has been a welcome evolution of a relationship that has been far less harmonious in the past. We pay tribute to the leadership of Hort Innovation's chair Julie Bird, the former CEO of the ABA, who has adopted a pro-active approach to building alliances and goodwill with almost 40 peak industry bodies. As she steps down after fulfilling her tenure, it is timely to acknowledge the many bridges rebuilt and the elevated standing of Hort Innovation across many industries. We also acknowledge the work done by Brett Fifield, Andrew Francey and their various project teams to drive an industry aligned results-first approach to research and development.

The work done across our various sub committees is the foundation of the industry's quest to remain as sustainable as possible. These committees are made up of ABA staff, chaired by ABA directors and comprise of industry and researchers with expertise in the relevant fields.

MARKETING

Our marketing team under the leadership of Melissa Wyness co-ordinates a program that has won widespread respect and delivered measurable outcomes. The ability to connect on a business-to-business level as well as drive demand domestically and in export markets has been underpinned by the ongoing collaborative support of all processors. Our key point of difference remains the commitment by the processors to market under the Australian Almonds origin banner. Our new market diversification work – co-funded via Hort Innovation and ANMI – features promotional initiatives in nearby markets like Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia to develop top end sales networks. The ongoing co-operation of Austrade representatives on location has assisted us in these endeavours while the involvement of industry ambassador, Masterchef star Poh Ling Yeow, has generated interest beyond expectations.

POLLINATION

Security of pollination in times when the latest strain of varroa is reducing hive numbers across the eastern states of the country is a primary focus that we continue to advocate and educate at all levels of government. Supporting beekeepers through this difficult period is vital.

PLANT IMPROVEMENT

With 40% of the industry needing to be replanted in the next 5-10 years, the focus on growers basing their variety and rootstock choices on independently verifiable data continues to be the quest for the industry. A new self-fertile trial at the Almond Centre of Excellence and the ongoing data emanating from the ABA's rootstock trials will provide valuable information for all to consider. New genomic analysis to advance development of Australian-suited varieties at the Adelaide University is the next chapter in a successful breeding program.

PRODUCTION

Costs of production, along with managing carpophilus beetle and carob moth, not to mention a range of disease threats remain at the forefront in the minds of all.

WATER

The potential of ongoing changes to Federal policy and legislation that could further reduce the consumptive pool for irrigators has created uncertainty that erodes business confidence in rural communities across the Murray Darling Basin. There is credible data to support the position that simply taking more water out of the consumptive pool will do little to improve the environment. Only 28% of all water in the basin is used for irrigation and critical needs. The ABA continues to advocate for win-win outcomes built on trust and collaboration, rather than philosophical positions that ignore the science.

PROCESSING

Advances in technology have assisted the industry stay ahead of orchard issues and strive to deliver a quality standard that reflects positive of the Australian origin. Managing wet product, improved drying and publishing the industry's first Hull and Shell Management Guide have been key activities over the past 12 months.

CHEMICAL

A grower's chemical toolkit continues to be challenged by domestic and international rules on MRLs and usage levels. The ABA has worked closely with Hort Innovation to address key issues with the APMVA and secure minor use permits on key actives as and when needed. Overseas trends on chemical use, especially in Europe, are influencing Australian policy so the need for vigilance and building justifiable cases for ongoing use on a case by case basis remains a key focus.

SUSTAINABILITY

The industry has a strong sustainability story to tell. Over the past 12 months we have seen an increasing number of growers access our Best Management Practice benchmarking platform Almond360. The wide-ranging modules cover all aspects of growing and provide growers with a personal, confidential temperature check on their performance and identify opportunities to improve. The platform also acts as a gateway to the likely need for sustainability certification as processors become increasingly obligated to verify the credentials of their supply chain.

The past financial year has also been full of notable achievements at the Almond Board of Australia.

The ABA staff are small dedicated team that delivers on so many fronts.

Our Industry Development team expanded with the appointment of noted agronomist Peter Reynolds in Griffith. His standing in the Riverina has given us a much-needed local resource. The leadership provided by Industry Development Manager Deidre Jaensch also has ensured the ABA has delivered tailored high-quality industry-specific extension activities on a diverse range of on farm issues and topics. The biennial R and D Forum at Robinvale attracted another record crowd in October. The combination of farm visits and presentations seemed to hit the mark with stakeholders. Our ACE management also continued to maintain high standards at a research facility that is the envy of many other horticultural industries.

One pivotal decision at board level in the past year has followed our strategic planning and independent structural review.

The Voluntary Marketing Levy (VML) has been renamed the Voluntary Industry Levy (VIL) to better reflect key activities requiring resourcing in the modern day. This mechanism was introduced with the support of growers in 2004 as a means in which the ABA could co-ordinate a range of marketing activities on behalf of growers and seek co-funding from government where appropriate.

Marketers have contributed 2 cents/kilogram for every tonne sold each season to cover all marketing activities undertaken under the guidance of the Market Development Committee and ABA board of directors.

The VML is collected on behalf of industry by the marketing companies and managed by the ABA. Since its inception the ABA marketing program is regularly referred to as one of the most successful in Australian horticulture and the united front adhered to remains its key point of difference.

As part of the latest review, it was agreed to retain the 2 cent per kilogram rate but include provision for 10% to be allocated to advocacy activities to defend the rights of growers on issues like water, pollination and labour.

The board recognised that formalising a stake for advocacy provided the industry with much needed resources to manage its own destiny.

ABA An Evening with Poh - director Nigel Carey CEO NPA with staff from Riverland Almonds

Farm to Fork filming - Director Peter Cavallaro

Director Profiles

The ABA Board comprises four marketer representative positions and eight grower representative positions: two representatives from Riverland, Riverina and Sunraysia regions and one representative from both the Adelaide and Swan regions. Directors are elected by the Grower Members of the ABA for a two-year appointment.

The ABA Board meets on a quarterly basis to oversee management and performance of the organisation. The Board represents the national interests of the industry, providing strategic direction and overseeing the investments of the ABA.

Alan Hoppe (Independent Chair)

Alan Hoppe took over as ABA independent chairperson in January 2025. His agricultural experience stretches across many commodities including soybeans, corn, almonds, wine grapes, dairy, grain, beef, cotton, citrus and rice milling. From 2008 to 2010 Alan was responsible for 1,100 hectares of almonds near Robinvale. As a child he spent time in and around Manangatang in the Victorian Mallee. Alan has been managing farming operations since he was a 16 year old. In addition to working in Australia he has spent time in Brazil and Rwanda.

Peter Cavallaro (Deputy Chair) – Adelaide Grower Director

Peter is the general manager of Walker Flat Almonds in South Australia's Murraylands. A third-generation almond grower, he has been in the industry since 1973 when his family bought an orchard at Angle Vale. He was also involved in the cut flower industry and served as a director of the Adelaide Flower Market until 2002.

Peter holds an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture and has completed the Company Directors Course. Since 2013, he has been a director of the Almond Board of Australia, representing the Adelaide region, and is currently the Deputy Chairman. He chairs the Production and Pollination Committees and is a member of the Plant Improvement and Almond Centre Committees.

Director Profiles continued

Neale Bennett – Sunraysia Grower Director

Neale has been involved with almonds since converting his family farm from vines in 1992. Neale also operates a contract almond harvesting business, Cowanna Harvesting. Neale has filled the roles of Chairman and Sunraysia Region Grower Representative on the ABA Board as well as Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman of the Sunraysia region of the Australian Almond Growers' Association (AAGA). Neale is a member of the Pollination and Water committees and represents the ABA at Horticulture Innovation Australia.

James Callipari – Riverina Grower Director

James graduated with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) in 2003 and then formally joined the family farming business. He has extensive experience in producing various fruits, vegetables, and grains, both irrigated and dryland. In 2006, he began developing an almond orchard in the Riverina region, leveraging his farming expertise. In 2013, James received the Phil Watters Award for excellence and service to the Australian Almond Industry. He serves as Chair of the ABA Chemical Committee.

Darren Minter – Sunraysia Grower Director

Darren is Managing Director of Minter Magic, a large almond, asparagus and citrus property situated in Iraak, Victoria. Darren is a major shareholder in the Red Cliffs Almond Growers Co-op, started in 1985. He is also member of the Australian Asparagus Council and a member of Citrus Australia. Darren holds a Diploma of Production Horticulture and was the VFF Victorian Apprentice of the year in 1988 (Fruit Section). In addition to being an ABA Board Grower representative for the Sunraysia Region, Darren serves on the Plant Improvement Committee, and Water Committee.

Brendan Sidhu – Riverland Grower Director

Brendan Sidhu is CEO and Executive Director of Century Orchards, a large almond orchard based in the Riverland, South Australia and Director of Riverland Almonds, Riverland Almond Processors based at Lindsay Point in Victoria and Nut Producers Australia. Brendan has been involved in the Australian almond industry since 1983, holding positions as both Secretary and Chair of the Riverland region of the Australian Almond Growers' Association (AAGA). In 2007, Brendan was appointed to the ABA Board, holding the position of Chairman from 2009 – 2012. He is the Chair Almond Centre of Excellence Committee and is a member of the Remuneration, and Conference Committees. Brendan is Chair of the Australian Nut Industry Council (ANIC). He is a member of Hort Innovation's Almond Strategic Industry Advisory Panel (SIAP). Brendan holds an Advanced Diploma in Horticulture and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Luke Stoeckel – Riverland Grower Director

Luke grew up on his family's almond and broadacre farm near Renmark, South Australia, and is now Managing Director of Cannonball Almonds. He oversees operations and development at Bunyip Reach. In 2009, Luke completed a Bachelor of Science (Petroleum Geology) from Adelaide University and worked internationally as an Engineer in the Oil Industry before returning home in 2014. Since then, he has developed Cannonball Almonds, planted with 75% Australian National Almond Breeding Program varieties. Luke also sits on the South Australian Murray Irrigators Committee and serves as Chair of the ABA Plant Improvement and member of the Pollination committee.

Daisy Toscan – Riverina Grower Director

Daisy Toscan is a dedicated and innovative farmer based in Darlington Point, New South Wales. She is an integral part of the Cavaso Farming operation, a family-run business that has been thriving since 1969. Daisy holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Agriculture) and grew up on a small grazing property at Corowa. Her dedication to the land and her family's legacy is evident in her continuous efforts to improve and sustain their farming practices for future generations. Daisy is the chair of the ABA Sustainability committee and member of the Audit and Risk and Remuneration Committees.

Peter Tana – Swan Region Grower Director

Peter Tana is an Owner / Director of Indian Ocean Farms Pty Ltd and has now been involved in growing almonds since 2015. During this time Peter has been overseeing the almond operations in WA including the installation in 2024 of a new on farm hulling and shelling facility. Peter also has over 20 years in the olive industry. He was involved in the establishment of over 1,000 ha of olive trees and has been running the growing, harvesting and processing operations of the olive groves for the past 20 years. Peter is a member of the Chemical and Production committees.

Damien Houlahan – Marketer Director

Damien is the Senior Vice President/ Global Head – Almonds – for ofi. Damien has the responsibility of overseeing almond operations for ofi in Australia and for the ofi Farming Business in California. With the combined almond acres in Australia and California ofi is one of the world's largest almond growers. Damien is chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and sits on the Remuneration Committee.

David Surveyor – Marketer Director

David was appointed Managing Director and CEO of Select Harvests Limited on 20th February 2023. He has diverse industry experience, particularly in the food sector. Previously, he was Chief Executive of Alliance Group Limited, Chairman of Alliance Group (NZ) Ltd, and held directorships at The Lamb Company (North America), Meateor Pet Foods, and Beef and Lamb New Zealand. He was also a member of the Meat Industry Association Council. Additionally, David served as Executive General Manager of Laminex, a subsidiary of Fletcher Building, and held roles with BHP in Australia and as President of Bluescope Lysaght in Malaysia. David stepped down from the Board at the end of financial year.

Nigel Carey – Marketer Director

Nigel is Chief Executive of Nut Producers Australia (NPA), a privately owned management, sales, marketing, and trading business operating in the Australian tree nut sector. Prior to his appointment as Chief Executive, Nigel was General Manager Operations with responsibility for managing NPA's Export Sales and Marketing activities and Group Operations spanning both Riverland Almonds and Australian Pioneer Pistachio Company (APPC). He has been with NPA for 16 years, following an extensive Agri marketing, operations, and management career in Tasmania. Nigel's qualifications include an MBA, Graduate of Australian Institute of Company Directors and Graduate of Insead. Nigel chairs the Processing Committee and sits on the Market Development Committee.

Paul Stewart – Marketer Director

Paul Stewart is the Group Sales and Marketing Manager at Almondco Australia Ltd, overseeing the sales team's strategic direction and annual intake. He joined Almondco in January 2022 and has over 40 years of experience in horticulture and agribusiness, mainly in SA's Riverland region. Starting in Finance and Administration at Berri Fruit Juices, which became Berrivale Orchards Ltd, he moved into Operations. He later held the Group Operations role at Riverland Fruit Co-op and became CEO of Sunnyland Fruits Pty Ltd. A Fellow of the Institute of Public Accountants, he has also served on the board of Sunbeam Foods. He is a member of the Market Development Committee.

Staff Profiles

Tim Jackson – Chief Executive Officer

Tim is the Chief Executive Officer at the Almond Board of Australia, having held the position since October 2021. As CEO, Tim leads the organisation's strategic direction and oversees the delivery of programs that support growers, processors, marketers and wider industry stakeholders. He works closely with the Board, staff, members, government, research partners and commercial stakeholders to advocate for the Australian almond industry and ensure the ABA continues to deliver value for its members. Tim was a former ABA director and member of the Almond Board of Australia's Market Development and Audit and Risk Committees prior to taking on the role of CEO. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the almond industry and has more than 30 years' experience in agribusiness through a wide range of communications and marketing roles.

Josh Fielke – Industry Development Officer

Josh was appointed as an Industry Development Officer in October 2015. He has a Bachelor of Environmental Science from the University of South Australia. In his role, Josh designs and delivers extension and education programs, products and services that use engaging and audience-appropriate media to encourage best practice and on-farm adoption. He initiates, plans and conducts research projects that address industry priorities, including data collection, analysis and reporting of key learnings. Josh also coordinates the production and distribution of virus-tested budwood to meet nursery orders and quality specifications. He provides support and technical information to ABA staff and sub-committees and supports the continued advancement and resilience of the Australian almond industry.

Kimberley Burden – Program & Data Manager

Kimberley has a bachelor of Agricultural Science and extensive background in finance. She reviews and analyze ABA core business to develop initiatives and strategies that will optimise organizational performance, through identification of revenue opportunities and cultivating stakeholder relationships. By using a data-informed approach to expanding the ABAs reputation as a leading peak industry body, this role bridges data-driven decision making and business acumen, ensuring data integrity while turning insights into actionable initiatives that align with the Almond Board of Australia's long-term goals.

Kym Walton – Executive Assistant

Kym is the executive assistant to the CEO. She brings extensive administrative experience in government service delivery. Kym focuses on executive support, acting as the point of contact between the CEO and internal or external colleagues, ensuring the smooth flow of information across the organisation. She undertakes board co-ordination, managing calendars, travel, preparing meeting papers, minute taking for Board meetings and ABA sub-committees, monitoring milestone deadlines for Hort Innovation co-funded projects and ensuring efficient operations within the organisation.

Melissa Wyness – Marketing Manager

Melissa Wyness is a highly accomplished Marketing Executive with over 20 years of experience leading communications strategies, consumer engagement, and partnership development across diverse industries. At the Almond Board of Australia, she has driven the international and consumer marketing strategy and introduced the ambassador strategy featuring Poh Ling Yeow and Kyle Chalmers, both of whom bring strong personal connections to almonds and high visibility in key markets. Beyond her work with ABA, Melissa contributes to boards and committees and mentors emerging marketers, sharing her expertise to support the next generation of industry leaders.

Nick Baker – Finance Manager

Nick is a chartered accountant with an accounting degree and joined ABA in July 2024 Nick's responsible for overseeing all aspects of accounting and finance at the ABA, managing and providing insight into all financial matters. He's responsible for the development of the ABA budget and for preparation and analysis of meaningful financial reports for the Board and management. Nick is responsible for managing the relationships with the ABA's bankers and auditors, taxation compliance, financial acquittals, legal financial obligations, and all payroll matters.

Ella Henson – Sustainability Manager

Ella was appointed to the position of Industry Development Officer - Sustainability in May 2022 and has since moved into the position of Sustainability Manager. Ella completed a Bachelor of Environmental Science (Honours) at Deakin University in Melbourne. In this role, she leads the Australian almond industry's sustainability program, working with stakeholders to understand and address sustainability challenges across the industry and supply chain. Ella drives efforts to integrate sustainability into best management practice, supports the development of industry sustainability goals, and collaborates with the Industry Development, Marketing, and Communications teams to deliver sustainability initiatives and share industry achievements.

Peter Jealous – Industry Development Officer

Peter was appointed to the position of Industry Development Officer (IDO) with the ABA in March 2023. He has a Master's Degree in Agricultural Sciences (Horticultural Production and Plant Protection) through the University of Queensland. His responsibilities include working closely with almond growers and stakeholders, designing effective education programs, conducting research projects, providing technical support and staying informed about industry developments.

Kellie Hollingworth – Communications Manager

Kellie Hollingworth manages the ABA's communications program. This includes the industry's quarterly e-magazine In A Nutshell, the monthly e-newsletter Almond Bytes and the distribution of Grower Notices. She also responds to media inquiries, oversees the ABA's social media accounts and updates the industry website. Kellie also represents the ABA on the Cross Border Industry Taskforce, which is striving to address workforce issues for the horticulture, mineral sands and renewable energy sectors in a tristate region stretching from Morgan in South Australia along the Murray River to Kerang in Victoria.

Tom Cooper – Trade Engagement Manager

Tom Cooper joined the Almond Board of Australia (ABA) in September 2024 as Marketing Officer and has since moved into the position of Trade Engagement Manager. In this role, Tom drives market development and trade engagement by managing ABA's stands at key exhibitions and connecting directly with buyers and stakeholders. He also promotes almond consumption and raises awareness of their health benefits among consumers and industry partners and supports trade missions to strengthen the industry's presence in both domestic and international markets. Through his global outlook and ability to engage with diverse audiences, Tom is helping build lasting trade relationships and drive Australia's position as a trusted supplier of premium almonds.

Deidre Jaensch – Industry Development Manager

Deidre joined the ABA in October 2019 as Industry Development Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Agricultural Science and is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Board of Directors. She has worked in irrigated horticulture for over 35 years within the government, industry and private sectors. Deidre manages the almond research and development program collaborating with growers and value chain stakeholders to generate the knowledge, skills and technologies required to enhance the industry's competitiveness and longevity in line with the almond industry strategic plan.

Zara Lewis – Marketing Coordinator

As Marketing Coordinator, Zara will be raising the profile of Australian Almonds in domestic and international markets. In 2025 she graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing). Zara has also contributed to cellar door activities, events and social media for her family's winery Lambrook Wines and Kingston IGA, giving her a strong understanding of brand storytelling and customer engagement. Her passion for regional industries, local produce and creative makes her a valuable member of the ABA team.

Staff Profiles continued

Di Shultz – Administration Officer

Diane joined the Almond Board of Australia as an Administration Officer in late September 2024. Di is responsible for reception, providing information and guidance in response to customer enquiries in person, by telephone or email ensuring incoming enquiries and information is distributed for action quickly. Di has responsibility for general administration and financial services including supplier payments, bank and credit card reconciliations, customer invoicing, and debtor follow up. Di ensures that office stationery supplies are maintained.

Peter Reynolds – Industry Development Officer

Peter joined the ABA in January 2026 as Industry Development Officer, based in the Riverina region of NSW. Peter holds a Bachelor of Management (Horticulture) and has worked as a horticultural advisor for around 30 years in the Riverina area. In the past 11 years, Peter has specialised in all agronomic aspects of almond production. He has extensive knowledge of almond production in the Riverina and is well known to the local producers. Peter's aim is to work with almond growers and help provide solutions to industry issues and provide information to enhance grower productivity and sustainability.

Anthony Wachtel – Orchard Farm Manager

Anthony (Wocky) has been managing the 60-hectare experimental and demonstration orchard at the Almond Centre of Excellence in Loxton for 9 years. Wocky prides himself on collaborating with researchers to ensure trial management programs are followed. He oversees the orchard's infrastructure development, aiming to create a world-class facility.

Anna Eadie – Assistant Orchard Farm Manager

Anna started with ACE as a casual orchard hand and has grown as the Assistant ACE Orchard Manager to support daily farm operations on high-level research trials, emphasizing effective tree management and alignment with research protocols in collaboration with researchers and commercial partners. She champions the ABA's work, health and safety protocols ensuring all involved with the orchard complete inductions, as well as provide ongoing training for staff and casuals on work and safety procedures.

ABA Committees

The ABA Board is supported by specialist committees that have their own terms of reference and are linked to the Board by an ABA Director chairing each committee and ABA staff providing support.

BUILDING DEMAND FOR AUSTRALIAN ALMONDS

MARKET DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Almond Market Development Committee analyses the domestic and global almond market, approves the activities that make up the marketing program, monitors the implementation of these promotions and trade events and evaluates the results. This committee acts as an industry reference group for marketing related research and development projects funded by grower levies and matched by the Commonwealth. The committee membership is drawn from the large industry marketers and members bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the broad range of marketing matters considered in building demand and maintaining market access for Australian almonds both domestically and on export markets.

Chair: Alan Hoppe

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

The Sustainability Committee provides guidance in the development and implementation of the Australian Sustainable Almonds Program. This program aims to promote sustainable practices that optimise resource consumption and minimises the impact on the environment, as well as pursue opportunities that enhance the communities which support our industry. It is anticipated that by demonstrating a positive social value to communities and the environment we will be well placed to reinforce our social licence to produce almonds in Australia.

Chair: Daisy Toscan

PROCESSING COMMITTEE

The Processing Committee provides a whole of industry approach to improving product quality, hulling and shelling and cost efficiencies to meet required quality specifications, and maintaining Australia's high product integrity reputation through providing input on food safety and quality issues.

Chair: Nigel Carey

INPUT SURETY AND COST

PRODUCTION COMMITTEE

The Almond Production Committee provides a forum to discuss all matters related to almond production to improve yields and input efficiency, and address issues of supply surety and cost. The committee considers possible changes to production systems and provides input on best practices. The extension program undertaken by the ABA industry development staff is guided by the committee, which also acts as the industry reference group for some production related research and development projects. The committee has a role in identifying risks for growers and any gaps in knowledge and technologies needed to enhance the production of almonds in Australia. This assists in the development of research priorities for the industry. These broad areas of responsibility are assisted by the specialist committees covering plant improvement, pollination, water and the experimental and demonstration orchard.

Chair: Peter Cavallaro

PLANT IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

The Plant Improvement Committee is the industry reference group for the almond breeding and evaluation program. It provides guidance on the desired characteristics of new varieties, assists the establishment of trial sites and assessment of results. It also provides a voice into the decisions regarding which selections are released as commercial varieties and the conditions surrounding their commercialisation. The committee guides the ABA's high health status budwood program that ensures nurseries have access to pathogen tested material to produce superior nursery trees that enhance orchard establishment.

Chair: Luke Stoeckel

POLLINATION COMMITTEE

The Pollination Committee deals with the surety and cost of pollination services that are a necessary element of almond production. The growth of the almond industry has placed increasing demand on the available beehives in Eastern Australia. The committee is working to address any impediments to apiarists bringing their hives onto almond orchards. The ABA supports the efforts of the beekeeping associations to have access to the floral resources on public lands. In addition, the ABA provides financial support to the biosecurity programs to keep bees safe from exotic pests. The committee is also investigating ways that the health of hives can be assured so that almond producers are getting quality hives capable of delivering strong pollination results.

Chair: Peter Cavallaro

WATER COMMITTEE

The Water Committee drafts industry policy for the ABA Board to consider and endorse, develops strategic actions to bring about positive change to the water market and reviews government policy that impacts on the pricing, availability and deliverability to almond and other irrigators whilst being mindful of the need for a healthy riverine system. The committee provides input into submissions prepared by the ABA, these submissions where possible seek to offer solutions to issues of concern.

Chair: Darren Minter

CHEMICAL COMMITTEE

The Chemical Committee monitors the chemicals available to Australian almond production and identifies chemicals with the potential to expand the options for chemical rotation, efficacy and efficiency, and pursue registration through APVMA. The committee will develop appropriate measures for chemical application to ensure MRL compliance in the domestic and export markets for consideration by the ABA Board. The committee is comprised of growers, technical staff from processors, senior technical people from major agrochemical companies and agronomists from retailers. Representatives from government bodies will be co-opted for guidance on issues as required.

Chair: James Callipari

ALMOND CENTRE COMMITTEE

The Almond Centre of Excellence (ACE) Committee was established to guide the development of the Almond Centre of Excellence, a sixty-hectare experimental and demonstration orchard that is the home of the industry's R&D activities. ACE was established with generous funding support by the South Australian and Commonwealth governments and the assistance of Hort Innovation. The committee also provides input into best production practices and technologies showcased on the orchard. The facility provides the opportunity to push the boundaries in search of significant developments to production systems. ACE is a collaboration between industry, researchers and commercial suppliers.

Chair: Brendan Sidhu

GOOD GOVERNANCE

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

The Audit Committee monitors the ABA's financial position and systems, risk and statutory/regulatory compliance including the external audit and annual budget processes. The committee reviews all ABA expenditure, accounts receivable and payable, and other elements of the extensive financial reporting that is provided to the Board meetings. The committee members also decide on the investment options available for the ABA's cash reserves. The members are also involved in the approval of large financial transactions.

Chair: Damien Houlahan

REMUNERATION COMMITTEE

The Remuneration Committee makes recommendations to the Board on matters relating to remuneration of the Chief Executive Officer and ABA staff in general, their performance and the staff composition, structure and operation of the organisation.

Chair: Alan Hoppe

Innovation and Adoption

The ABA industry development (ID) team works side-by-side with almond growers, industry stakeholders and value chain members to implement the Almond Industry Strategic Plan. Funded through Hort Innovation the program extends new knowledge and technologies generated by Australian and international researchers as well as drawing on expertise from within the grower community to establish best practice in an Australian context.

The five-year Almond extension strategy 2023-28 is delivered under the guidance of the ABA Production Committee, ABA Board of Directors and Hort Innovation, and provides the framework for industry development activities.

The purpose of the extension strategy is to **improve the reach, knowledge and uptake of innovation that provides value to almond growers.** Informed decisions will contribute to the profitability and sustainability of almond businesses enabling them to continue best practice while supporting their local and global communities. With innovation and adoption our vision for the extension strategy is **successful almond businesses, nurturing landscapes, valued by community.**

Key achievements in 2025/26 contributing to the extension strategy priorities were:

Protecting against sustainability threats and promoting value (Environmental Social Governance), by:

- Strengthening industry preparedness and response to biosecurity threats with an updated Nut Industry Biosecurity Strategy and Almond Industry Implementation plan developed in consultation with Plant Health Australia.
- Representing Almond grower interests in biosecurity forums including responsibilities under the Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and Industry Liaison Officer training of all ID staff.
- Supporting the National Varroa transition to management biosecurity response.
- Incorporating best practice into Almond Hort360 module development.
- Identifying gaps in available crop protection chemistry and potential strategies to address them.
- Exploring production challenges and insights for future R&D investment with Californian stakeholders during the International Almond study tour.

Activities delivered by the ID team in 2025/26 includes:

- 10 field days and orchard walks – 335 participants
- 8 workshops on irrigation system drainage, interpreting soil moisture and leading harvest – 146 participants
- 3 webinars on soil moisture monitoring, insect pests, objective estimate insights – 85 participants
- Almond Research and Development Forum - 350 participants
- 3 regional meetings (Griffith, Loxton and Mildura) – 83 participants
- 19 ABA value-chain committee meetings – 193 participants
- 12 ACE orchard farm visits – 74 participants
- 87 liaison meetings with 454 industry, researchers, government stakeholders
- 26 biosecurity meetings with federal and state jurisdictions and industry stakeholders
- 11 issues-based or project reference group meetings
- Nut Industry Biosecurity Strategy and Almond Industry Implementation plan
- 13 presentations, 3 factsheets, 1 tool and 5 videos
- Farm visits, phone calls and emails.

Enhancing grower community capacity and resilience (People), by:

- Expanding the largest Carpophilus Beetle monitoring and reporting network with over 300 traps serviced across Australian almond growing regions in partnership with Agriculture Victoria.
- Facilitating focus group support and co-ordinating technical advice on Monterey/varietal leafing failure contributing factors and interventions;
- Improving baseline knowledge and skills in virus symptoms and the importance of high-health planting material, irrigation drainage and soil moisture monitoring, almond tree nutrition, rootstock evaluation and sustainable chemical use through grower events and resources.
- Supporting Women in Almonds with targeted field days and tours.
- Promoting careers in almonds to agricultural students in Adelaide and Wagga Wagga.

Optimising innovation and best practice (Research, Development and Innovation), by:

- Establishing Aurora B trial plantings and working with Adelaide University to streamline the commercialisation of new varieties.
- Meeting with chemical companies to facilitate pathway to market.
- Representing the almond industry in design and reference group forums for industry and federally funded projects.
- Supporting industry value chain committee meetings and providing advice through the Hort Innovation Strategic Industry Advisory Panel.

The ABA continually improves its extension delivery services by fostering strong cohesive relationships with industry leaders, researchers, service providers and commercial agents, both in Australia and overseas, allowing trusted communication and information sharing providing Australian almond growers with the knowledge and capacity needed to adapt to the increasingly dynamic, environmental, social and economic operating conditions. It continually surveys industry needs and opportunities through grower and stakeholder feedback via ABA subcommittee meetings, project reference groups, research reviews and findings, Regional meetings, Conference and R&D forums, overseas publications and monitoring changes in government regulatory environment. Industry standard practice is also gathered through webinar and field day feedback mechanisms to continually improve the effectiveness and timeliness of delivery.

The ABA website: grower resources page provides the point of reference for all project deliverables creating a valuable legacy of knowledge supporting the future Australian almond industry.

Sustainability

Global sustainability requirements are changing rapidly as governments, industries and consumers seek high standards and want to know more about product safety, ethical workforce practices, and where their food has come from. Never have food producers been more engaged or accountable for their production practices and their impact on the planet and people.

The ABA's approach to industry sustainability is through best management practices. Best management practices (BMPs) outline the most effective and practical ways to achieve a specific goal and play a key role in boosting productivity, strengthening environmental sustainability and reducing risks in almond orchards. If sustainability is the goal, BMPs are the pathway to achieving it. It is also important to recognise that much of what we currently do as an industry is already sustainable.

Almond360

To support almond growers in implementing BMPs on farm, the ABA have developed Almond360, an online BMP portal which allows almond growers to assess their operations across a range of areas and benchmark themselves against others in the industry.

Almond360 is an almond industry-specific adaptation of Growcom's Hort360 platform and has been developed in consultation with key industry stakeholders. There are currently 12 BMP modules available, and one under development.

- BIODIVERSITY
- BIOSECURITY
- ENERGY AND EMISSIONS
- IRRIGATION
- MANAGING WASTE
- NUTRIENT
- PESTICIDE
- PEOPLE AND PLACE
- POLLINATION
- SOIL
- WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY
- INTEGRATED PEST AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT*

*under development

Marketing

The 2025–26 financial year represented another significant period for the Almond Board of Australia, with the delivery of an integrated marketing program across domestic and international markets.

A key highlight was the development and launch of CRUNCH – The Australian Almond Cookbook. Created to inspire greater use of Australian almonds beyond traditional snacking occasions, the cookbook brought together original recipes, ambassador content and Australian provenance in a practical resource for consumers, chefs and food professionals.

Through ambassador partnerships, trade missions, industry events and targeted consumer and professional campaigns, the ABA continued to communicate the quality, versatility and nutritional benefits of Australian almonds. Collectively, these activities strengthened relationships across the supply chain and reinforced the position of Australian almonds as a premium, nutritious and versatile ingredient for everyday use.

AMBASSADORS

ABA's ambassador program continued to provide a credible and engaging platform for connecting Australian almonds with consumers, food professionals and health audiences.

Partnerships with Poh Ling Yeow, Kyle Chalmers, Simone Austin and Jemma O'Hanlon supported the delivery of recipes, educational resources, media activity and live events. Each ambassador contributed expertise and audience reach relevant to the program's key objectives, reinforcing the nutritional value, versatility and everyday applications of Australian almonds.

Poh Ling Yeow also played a central role in the development and launch of CRUNCH – The Australian Almond Cookbook, contributing recipes, culinary content and promotional activity across Australia and key international markets.

AMBASSADOR ACTIVITIES

Poh Ling Yeow

CONTENT SHOOT

From 27 June to 5 July, a photo and video shoot with Poh captured content for 25 recipes for the new CRUNCH cookbook, including a range of Asian-inspired dishes. The content supported the cookbook, social media, digital advertising and future promotional activity.

POH TRIP TO MALAYSIA

From 25 August to 1 September, Melissa Wyness and Tom Cooper travelled to Malaysia with Poh to film Poh to Fork episodes and host a culinary event at the Australian High Commissioner's Residence. Poh also visited Le Cordon Bleu Malaysia, showcasing Australian almonds to culinary students and key industry stakeholders.

CRUNCH COOKBOOK LAUNCH

The CRUNCH Cookbook was launched in Loxton, bringing together growers, industry partners and consumers to celebrate the new cookbook and inspire greater use of almonds in everyday cooking.

DINNER WITH POH INDUSTRY EVENT

Hosted at ACE in Loxton, Dinner with Poh brought together growers and industry partners for an evening celebrating Australian almonds. Poh showcased the versatility of almonds through a curated menu featuring savoury and sweet applications.

FARM TO FORK

ABA hosted a Farm to Fork filming day at Walker Flat with Poh Ling Yeow and Michael Weldon. The shoot showcased recipes from CRUNCH among the almond orchards, creating evergreen content highlighting Australian provenance and the versatility of almonds.

TOPS SUPERMARKET PROMOTION

Handouts were distributed through TOPS supermarkets across Thailand, highlighting the health benefits, quality and versatility of Australian almonds and supporting consumer awareness at point of sale.

THAIFEX INDUSTRY TRADE EVENT

The Australian Almonds Industry Trade Event featured Poh Ling Yeow and recipes from the CRUNCH cookbook, which was launched in Thailand for the first time. The event combined culinary demonstrations with industry engagement to support relationship building and future market growth.

AUSTRADE – THE GREAT AUSTRALIAN BITE

Australian almonds were featured alongside Australian lamb at Austrade's The Great Australian Bite event, strengthening engagement with buyers, media and industry stakeholders in Thailand.

FOOD PROFESSIONAL CAMPAIGN

The campaign generated strong early engagement from food professionals across key markets. Indonesia recorded the highest cookbook download page clicks at 6,285, while Australia delivered the highest impressions.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CAMPAIGN

Video content was developed for GP clinics to educate health professionals and consumers on the nutritional benefits of incorporating almonds into everyday diets.

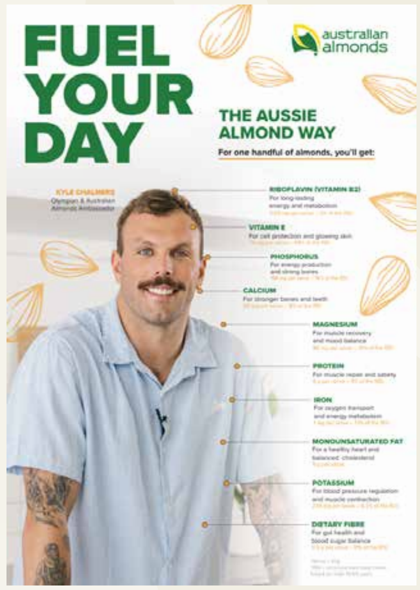
THE EVERYDAY INGREDIENT CAMPAIGN

Following its launch at THAIFEX, a suite of resources was developed for consumers, health professionals, food professionals and trade partners. Materials highlighted the versatility of Australian almonds and were adapted into Thai, Bahasa Indonesia and Malay.

Kyle Chalmers

FUEL YOUR DAY CAMPAIGN

The Health Professional pack featuring Kyle delivered strong early engagement across Southeast Asia and Australia, generating 4,423 downloads in Malaysia, 615 in Australia, 9,176 in Indonesia and 1,591 in Thailand.



RESTAURANT COLLABORATION – SINGAPORE

Kyle partnered with chef Haffizul Hashim of Michelin Green Star restaurant Fiz in Singapore to showcase Australian almonds across traditional and contemporary Southeast Asian cuisine. The resulting content supported regional digital, media and social activity.

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CAMPAIGN

Health guides highlighting the nutrients found in a handful of almonds were developed for health professionals, supported by website, social media and GP clinic video content.

GATHER ROUND CAMPAIGN

The Gather Round campaign delivered broad exposure across high-traffic airports and train stations, reaching locals and travellers through prominent Australian Almonds creatives.

Simone Austin

HEALTH PROFESSIONAL CAMPAIGN

Simone supported the Health Professional campaign, providing credible nutrition expertise across educational resources and communications targeting health professionals.

Jemma O'Hanlon

EVERYDAY GOURMET

Australian almonds featured across Everyday Gourmet, reaching 4.24 million viewers nationally and 2.34 million grocery buyers. Recipes included Almond Sweet Potato Brownies, Super Green Soup with Almonds and Malaysian Fish & Almond Curry.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

MURRAY THE MASCOT

Murray the Mascot was developed to increase brand visibility and engagement at trade shows and public events, providing a memorable and approachable representation of Australian Almonds.

CHINA – CHEF ACTIVITIES

Chef collaborations and workshops in China positioned Australian almonds as a premium and versatile ingredient. Activities with Chef Yewei and Chef Clinton Zhu engaged professional and emerging chefs through recipe demonstrations and hands-on training.

INDIA – DIGITAL RECIPE BOOK

Australian Almonds India developed a digital recipe book featuring 50 almond-based recipes, supported by nutrition information and a dedicated microsite.

CHINA – PURE ENERGY CAMPAIGN

The Pure Energy campaign with PURE Group combined yoga, media and pop-up activations across Beijing and Shanghai, generating 15.88 million impressions and connecting Australian almonds with health and wellness audiences.

THE EVERYDAY INGREDIENT CAMPAIGN

The campaign positioned Australian almonds as a versatile ingredient for every meal through recipe content, ambassador partnerships and the CRUNCH cookbook. Campaign assets were adapted for digital, social and event use across key markets.

INDIA – RETAIL PROMOTIONS

Australian Almonds continued to build retail visibility in India through activations with Reliance Retail and LuLu Hypermarket, including POS, in-store video, arch branding and bulk dry fruit promotions.

SOUTHEAST ASIA – ADVERTORIAL CAMPAIGN

Advertorial activity across Lifestyle Asia and Asia Pacific Food Industry generated an estimated combined reach of 1.35 million, strengthening awareness of Australian almonds among premium consumer and food industry audiences.

OUTBOUND MISSIONS

ABA's outbound program supported market development through trade shows, seminars and research missions, strengthening relationships with customers and key stakeholders across priority markets. A key highlight was the introduction of industry trade events alongside major trade shows, creating valuable opportunities to connect with the right people and strengthen industry relationships.

GOOD FOOD & WINE SHOW – SYDNEY

ABA participated in the Good Food & Wine Show at ICC Sydney from 20–22 June 2025, attracting 35,605 attendees. Product sampling and a live cooking demonstration with Michael Weldon showcased the versatility of Australian almonds.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY INDONESIA

ABA participated in Food & Hospitality Indonesia in Jakarta from 22–25 July 2025, engaging with importers, retailers and food professionals. A retail tour also provided valuable insights into the limited presence of Australian almonds in Indonesian supermarkets.

HORT INNOVATION EVENT – MALAYSIA

Melissa Wyness represented ABA at a Hort Innovation event in Malaysia, presenting on Australian Almonds' market development activities and strengthening relationships with government, trade and horticultural stakeholders.

ANUGA – COLOGNE

Australian Almonds attended Anuga Cologne with four major exporters. Despite a quiet opening weekend, activity increased throughout the event, generating strong customer engagement and enquiries around market access and European opportunities.

ROYAL ADELAIDE SHOW

ABA participated in the 2025 Royal Adelaide Show, distributing more than 10,000 sample tins over ten days. Murray the Mascot and the Almond Chair proved popular attractions while supporting consumer engagement.

FOOD & HOSPITALITY MALAYSIA

ABA participated in Food & Hospitality Malaysia, engaging with importers, distributors, manufacturers and culinary professionals. Strong interest was recorded in almond applications across bakery, confectionery and healthy snacks.

TÜRKIYE INDUSTRY RESEARCH MISSION

A research mission to Istanbul and Gaziantep provided valuable insights into the Turkish almond market. Stakeholders expressed strong interest in Australian almonds, while discussions identified challenges around pricing, product quality and exporter engagement.

TRADE SEMINAR – SHANGHAI

A Shanghai trade seminar attracted 30 attendees, including 25 traders and five media contacts. Three new almond recipes were demonstrated, generating positive feedback and several follow-up purchase enquiries.

MEWA – DELHI

MEWA attracted more than 10,000 industry professionals and over 300 exhibitors. Despite limited new-crop availability, Australian almonds generated strong interest from existing customers and prospective new buyers.

GULFOOD – DUBAI

Gulfood 2026 generated strong interest in Australian almonds despite early-season product availability challenges. The Australian Almonds Networking Event attracted more than 70 attendees and provided an opportunity to share industry and new-crop insights.

SIAL CHINA – SHANGHAI

SIAL China attracted more than 180,000 attendees across three days, providing strong visibility for Australian almonds in the Chinese market. The event also provided an opportunity to engage with customers despite ongoing 2026 harvest quality challenges.

INC CONGRESS – MACAO

The INC Congress brought together more than 1,200 industry leaders from over 65 countries. Attendance provided an opportunity to benchmark Australian initiatives, connect with international teams and identify opportunities for future improvement.

THAIFEX – BANGKOK

THAIFEX – Anuga Asia attracted more than 90,000 attendees, with 164 visitors engaging with the Australian Almonds stand. The event included the Australian Almonds Industry Trade Event featuring Poh and the CRUNCH cookbook, as well as participation in Austrade's The Great Australian Bite.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2025–26 marketing program continued to strengthen awareness, engagement and demand for Australian almonds across domestic and international markets.

A defining initiative for the year was the development and launch of CRUNCH – The Australian Almond Cookbook, created in partnership with Australian Almonds ambassador Poh Ling Yeow and featuring an original collection of Australian almond recipes. The cookbook provided an important platform for showcasing the versatility of Australian almonds across sweet and savoury dishes, diverse cuisines and everyday eating occasions.

Following its launch with growers and industry stakeholders in the Riverland, CRUNCH was introduced to international audiences through culinary, trade and industry activity across Southeast Asia, promoting Australian almonds and the growers behind them to key global markets.

ABA's ambassador partnerships remained an important component of the program. Poh Ling Yeow played a central role in recipe development, culinary events and food professional engagement, while Kyle Chalmers, Simone Austin and Jemma O'Hanlon supported complementary health, nutrition, lifestyle and consumer communications.

International market development also remained a priority, with ABA participating in major trade exhibitions, seminars, research missions and industry events across Asia, Europe and the Middle East. The introduction of dedicated industry events alongside major trade shows created more focused opportunities for Australian exporters to engage with customers and key stakeholders.

Across digital, retail, health professional, food professional and consumer activity, ABA delivered consistent messaging about the quality, nutrition, provenance and versatility of Australian almonds. Together, these initiatives strengthened industry relationships, expanded the reach of Australian Almonds communications and supported continued development across domestic and international markets.

Activities	Dates
Good Food and Wine Show, Sydney	20-22 June
Food and Hospitality Indonesia, Jakarta	22-25 July
Food and Hospitality Indonesia, Malaysia	23-26 September
Hort Innovation Event, Malaysia	September
Royal Adelaide Show	September
Anunga Cologne	4-8 October
Turkiye Research Mission	August
Trade Seminar, Shanghai	May
MEWA Delhi, India	23-25 January
GULFOOD Dubai, UAE	26-30 January
China Nut Expo - Hefei, China	15-19 April
INC Congress - Macau, China	12-14 May
SIAL China - Shanghai, China	18-20 May
Industry Trade Event with Thai Buyers - Bangkok	25 May
THAIFEX - Bangkok	26-30 May

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Director's Report

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Directors' Report

Your board members submit the financial report of Almond Board of Australia Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

Board Members

The names of board members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Alan Hoppe - Chairperson

Damien Houlahan - Audit & Risk Committee Chairperson

Neale Bennett

James Callipari

Nigel Carey

Peter Cavallaro

Kristina Hermanson - Appointed 3/8/2026

Darren Minter

Brendan Sidhu

Paul Stewart

Luke Stoeckel

David Surveyor - Resigned 31/7/2026

Daisy Toscan

Peter Tana

Principal Activities

To facilitate further growth and development of the almond industry.

Significant Changes

No significant changes in the nature of theses activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The loss for the financial year amounted to: $1,221,161 (2025: $768,304 surplus)

Going Concern

This financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis which contemplates continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The ability of the association to continue to operate as a going concern is dependent upon the ability of the association to generate sufficient cashflows from operations to meet its liabilities. The members of the association believe that the going concern assumption is appropriate.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Board.

Alan Hoppe (Chairperson)

Damien Houlahan

Dated: 18 September 2026

Statement of Profit or Loss & Other Comprehensive Income

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Income		
Grant Funding	5,507,541	4,697,966
Interest Earned	275,176	162,258
Other Revenue	4,695,392	5,327,762
Total Income	**10,478,109**	**10,187,987**
Total Income	**10,478,109**	**10,187,987**
Expenses		
Depreciation & Amortisation	255,373	347,759
Employee Benefits	2,292,131	1,896,416
Other Expenses	9,151,766	7,175,507
Total Expenses	**11,699,270**	**9,419,682**
Profit/(Loss) before Taxation	**(1,221,161)**	**768,304**
Net Profit After Tax	**(1,221,161)**	**768,304**
Net Profit After Distributions/Dividends Paid	**(1,221,161)**	**768,304**

Statement of Financial Position

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
As at 30 June 2026

	NOTES	30 JUNE 2026	30 JUNE 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	3	7,015,884	9,297,052
Trade & Other Receivables	4	1,102,643	959,721
Other Current Assets	5	1,845,621	132,439
Total Current Assets		**9,964,149**	**10,389,212**
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	3,171,691	2,846,766
Intangibles	7	53,086	53,086
Total Non-Current Assets		**3,224,777**	**2,899,852**
Total Assets		**13,188,925**	**13,289,063**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade & Other Payables	8	662,460	923,434
Employee Benefits	10	227,109	195,567
Other Current Liabilities	9	1,381,167	31,632
Total Current Liabilities		**2,270,736**	**1,150,633**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Employee Benefits	10	89,333	60,717
Provisions	11	952,820	1,296,374
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**1,042,153**	**1,357,091**
Total Liabilities		**3,312,889**	**2,507,724**
Net Assets		**9,876,036**	**10,781,340**
Equity			
Retained Earnings		9,876,036	10,781,340
Total Equity		**9,876,036**	**10,781,340**

Statement of Changes in Funds

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	RETAINED EARNINGS	ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE	TOTAL
Statement of Changes in Funds			
2025			
Balance at 1 July 2024	11,212,769	-	11,212,769
Profit Attributable to Members	768,304	-	768,304
Movement in Reserves	-	-	-
Prior Year MIP Adjustment	(1,199,734)	-	(1,199,734)
Balance at 30 June 2025	**10,781,339**	**-**	**10,781,339**
2026			
Profit/(Loss) Attributable to Members	(1,221,161)	-	(1,221,161)
Movement in Reserves	-	-	-
Prior Year CIF Adjustment	315,858	-	315,858
Balance at 30 June 2026	9,876,036	-	9,876,036

Statement of Cashflows

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

	2026	2025
Statement of Cashflows for the year ended 30 June 2026		
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Receipts from Operations	4,914,777	5,425,903
Receipts from Government Funding	6,487,214	4,697,966
Payments to Suppliers & Employees	(13,399,008)	(8,744,193)
Interest Received	288,592	160,515
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**(1,708,425)**	**1,540,191**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities		
Payments for Property, Plant & Equipment	(614,561)	(687,163)
Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant & Equipment	41,818	157,273
Net Cash used in Investing Activities	**(572,743)**	**(529,890)**
Cash Flows from Financing Activities		
Proceeds from Borrowings	-	-
Increase/(Reduction) in Borrowings	-	-
Net Cash (Used In)/ Provided by Financing Activities	-	-
Cash at End of Financial Year		
Net (Decrease)/ Increase in Cash Held	(2,281,168)	1,010,301
Cash at Beginning of Year	9,297,052	8,286,751
Total Cash at End of Financial Year	**7,015,884**	**9,297,052**

Notes to the Financial Statements

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

The financial statements cover the association of The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated. The Association is a not-for-profit association incorporated in South Australia under the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. The financial statements have been prepared to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and Australian Accounting Standards (AASB).

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the Corporations Act.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant acounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash & Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and other short-term investments, which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash, and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Each class of plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line basis or diminishing value basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

During 2024 The Almond Board of Australia Inc (Organisation) purchased the property known as research property (Cert of Title Vol 6187 Folio 630) from the Minister of Primary Industries and Regional Development (Dept) for an agreed value of $610,001.

At the time the organisation entered into an encumbrance agreement with the Dept for a further period of 10 years. Should the Organisation wish to sell the property, this agreement directs the Organisation to make the first offer to the Dept at the agreed value of $610,001 during the agreement period.

This encumbrance effectively limits the value of the property during this period to the agreed value within the agreement and not at market value.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association’s liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made from those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cash flows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in measurement of the liability are recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Intangible Assets

Water Rights

Water Rights are recognised at cost of acquisition. Water rights have an infinite life and are carried at cost less any impairment losses and are tested for impairment annually. The Association currently holds Water Rights of 25ML, which have a median net realisable value of $8,100/ML

Impairment of Non-financial Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Association determines whether there is evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets. Where the indicator exists and regardless of goodwill, indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of these assets is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating-unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating-unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in the statement of profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss, except for goodwill.

Trade & Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for impairment. Collectability of receivables is reviewed on an on-going basis. Individual debts that are known to be uncollectable are written off when identified. An impairment provision is raised when there is objective evidence that the Association will not be able to recover the receivable.

Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and due to their short-term nature are not discounted. They represent liabilities of goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Association becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services.

Financial Assets

Investments in financial assets are initially recognised at cost, which includes transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value, which is equivalent to their market bid price at the end of the reporting period. Movements in fair value are recognised through an equity reserve.

	NOTES	2026	2025
3. Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Cash on Hand		4,506	4,506
Cheque Accounts		416,919	2,076,917
Savings Accounts		4,267	4,257
Term Deposits		6,590,192	7,211,372
Total Cash & Cash Equivalents		**7,015,884**	**9,297,052**

	NOTES	2026	2025

4. Trade and Other Receivables

	NOTES	2026	2025
Trade Receivables			
Accounts Receivable		664,247	959,721
Total Trade Receivables		**664,247**	**959,721**
Other Receivables			
Accrued Receivables		438,396	-
Total Other Receivables		**438,396**	**-**
Total Trade and Other Receivables		**1,102,643**	**959,721**

5. Other Assets

	NOTES	2026	2025
Current			
Accrued Interest		43,718	57,134
CIF Monies on Deposit HIA		689,472	-
Prepayments		1,112,432	75,305
Total Current		**1,845,621**	**132,439**
Total Other Assets		**1,845,621**	**132,439**

The accounts now represent payments deposited with Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited on call. Prepayments include $800,642 of contributions by the Almond Board of Australia towards matched Commonwealth grant funding received in advance, as disclosed in Note 9.

6. Property, Plant & Equipment

	NOTES	2026	2025
Land			
Land at Cost	14	722,725	722,725
Total Land		**722,725**	**722,725**
Property Improvements			
Property Improvements at Cost	14	1,110,372	1,110,372
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment of Property Improvements		(191,943)	(154,822)
Total Property Improvements		**918,429**	**955,551**
Plant & Equipment			
Plant & Equipment at Cost	14	3,375,719	2,880,998
Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment of Plant & Equipment		(1,845,183)	(1,712,508)
Total Plant & Equipment		**1,530,537**	**1,168,490**
Total Property, Plant & Equipment		**3,171,691**	**2,846,766**

7. Intangibles

	NOTES	2026	2025
Other Intangibles			
Water Rights		53,086	53,086
Total Other Intangibles		**53,086**	**53,086**
Total Intangibles		**53,086**	**53,086**

8. Trade and Other Payables

	NOTES	2026	2025
Trade Payables		256,321	315,170
Other Payables			
Accrued Payables		186,260	320,613
Credit Cards		39,228	9,922
GST Payable		147,817	234,178
PAYG Payable		32,834	28,886
Superannuation Payable		-	14,664
Total Other Payables		**406,139**	**608,263**
Total Trade and Other Payables		**662,460**	**923,434**

9. Other Liabilities

	NOTES	2026	2025
Current			
Revenue Received In Advance		1,381,167	31,632
Total Current		**1,381,167**	**31,632**
Total Other Liabilities		**1,381,167**	**31,632**

Revenue received in advance is mainly comprised of matched Commonwealth grant funding from Horticulture Innovation Australia. The portion that the Almond Board of Australia has contributed towards this revenue received in advance is recorded as a prepayment as disclosed in Note 5.

	NOTES	2026	2025

10. Employee Entitlements

	NOTES	2026	2025
Current			
Accrued Wages & Superannuation			
Accrued Superannuation		-	4,202
Accrued Wages		49,940	35,015
Total Accrued Wages & Superannuation		**49,940**	**39,217**
Provision for Annual Leave		177,169	156,351
Total Current		**227,109**	**195,567**
Non-current			
Provision for Long Service Leave		89,333	60,717
Total Non-current		**89,333**	**60,717**
Total Employee Entitlements		**316,442**	**256,284**

11. Provisions

	NOTES	2026	2025
Non Current			
Marketers Initiative Program		952,820	1,296,374
Total Non Current		**952,820**	**1,296,374**
Total Provisions		**952,820**	**1,296,374**

12. Reconciliation of Net Cash from Operating Activities to Surplus for the Year

	NOTES	2026	2025
Surplus/ (Deficit) for the Year		(1,221,161)	768,305
Non-cash flows in surplus for the year			
Depreciation & Amortisation		255,373	347,759
Profit of sale of Property, Plant & Equipment		(7,554)	(65,419)
Total Non-cash flows in surplus for the year		**247,819**	**282,340**
Movement in Trade & Other Receivables		(129,506)	(89,763)
Movement in Prepayments		(1,410,742)	137,479
Movement in Trade & Other Payables		(260,974)	360,875
Movement in Revenue in Advance		1,349,535	5,268
Movement in Employee Benefits		60,158	(20,952)
Movement in Provisions		(343,554)	96,639
Total Reconciliation of Net Cash from Operating Activities to Surplus for the Year		**(1,708,425)**	**1,540,191**

13. Auditors Remuneration

	NOTES	2026	2025
Audit & Review of Financial Statements		7,690	9,290
Total Auditors Remuneration		**7,690**	**9,290**

14. Impairment of Assets

In 2024 The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated purchased land at Loxton from the South Australian Government on which it has established the Almond Centre of Excellence.

The terms of the contract provide that if the land is sold within 10 years an encumbrance operates whereby the first option to purchase the property, including all improvements to the land, must be given to the South Australian Government, with a fixed price of $610,001.

In accordance with Accounting Standards IAS 36 Impairment of Assets the recoverable value of the property including improvements will be limited to $610,001 until the encumbrance is removed in 2034.

The Directors are of the opinion that the application of IAS 36 would be misleading to users of the financial statements, as they are of the view that The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated will continue to own and operate the Almond Centre of Excellence well beyond the expiry of the encumbrance and have therefore decided not to reflect the value of the asset impairment in the financial statements.

In interest of full transparency, the Directors disclose the amounts of the impairment below.

Details of the accumulated impairment losses not reported in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income and Statement of Financial Position are as follows:

Impairment of Assets

	NOTES	2026	2025
Land		112,724	112,724
Property Improvements		918,429	955,551
Plant & Equipment		987,401	517,615
Total Impairment of Assets		**2,018,554**	**1,585,890**

Statement by Members of The Board

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Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

The board has determined that the Association is a reporting entity and that these general-purpose financial statements should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in note 2 to the financial statements. In the opinion of the board the financial statements:

- Present fairly the financial position of The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2026 and its performance for the year ending on that date.

- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

In accordance with Section 35(5) of the Associations Incorporations Act (SA) 1985, the Board hereby states that during the financial year to which the accounts relate:

- No officer of The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated, or a firm of which the officer is a member, or a corporation in which the officer has substantial financial interest, has received or become entitled to receive a benefit as a result of a contract between the officer, a firm of which the officer is a member or a corporation in which the officer has a substantial financial interest and The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated.

- No officer of The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated, has received directly or indirectly from The Almond Board of Australia Incorporated and payment or other benefit of a pecuniary value, except the following honorariums paid:

Chairperson's Allowance

Alan Hoppe - $ 66,900

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board and is signed on behalf of the Board by:

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Alan Hoppe (Chairperson)

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Damien Houlahan

Dated: 18 September 2026

Auditor Independence Declaration

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Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Under APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants to the Board of Almond Board of Australia Incorporated:

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2026 there have been no contraventions of:

- The auditor's independence requirements as set out in the APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants

- Any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

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Markos Stavrou

Riverland Audit Services

19 White Street
Waikerie SA 5330

Dated: 18 September 2026

RAS
RIVERLAND AUDIT SERVICES
Professional Independent Assurance

Auditor's Report

Almond Board of Australia Incorporated
For the year ended 30 June 2026

Independent Auditors Report to the members of the Association

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Almond Board of Australia Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the directors' report, the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, statement of changes in Funds, Statement of cash flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by members of the board on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Almond Board of Australia Incorporated as at 30 June 2026 and (of) its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 2 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985.

Board's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The board of Almond Board of Australia Incorporated is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the board determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We have conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Almond Board of Australia Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1985. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Markos Stavrou

Riverland Audit Services

19 White Street
Waikerie SA 5330

Dated: 18 September 2026

RIVERLAND AUDIT SERVICES
Professional Independent Assurance

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