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PANEL: THE CURRENT STATE OF RESEARCH

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# Australian industry-funded Food Safety Research and Development - Now and the future

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## The current industry-funded model – three options

- Industry-specific levies
- Across industry levies
- Voluntary contributions
- Where to from here?



## Industry-specific levies



### The Almond Industry

- Program approach based on known food safety priority aspergillus/aflatoxin
- Strategic analysis of contributing factors
- Projects around critical control points
  - Stock pile storage, harvest criteria, harvest options, soil management, GAPs, etc.
- Mushrooms moved to similar approach focussed on AMSAFE

## Industry-specific levies



### The Vegetable Industry

- Formerly based on HAL call for projects based on non-specific strategic plan
  - Listeria BMPs; sanitiser comparison; biocontrol of pathogens
- Now wide spread approach based on issues/tenders raised by Design Teams that are consistent with VegVision 2020
  - Crisis Management Plan; How to increase fs participation; QA software comparison

Most industries do not have budget to address food safety R&D needs

## Across industry levies



- Reserved for high priorities that impact most/all members
  - Biosecurity; minor use PPPs; market access; robotics; climate change, leadership
- Develop Crisis Management Guidelines;
- Food Security Scoping Study;
- QA Harmonisation investigation



## Voluntary Contributions

- No specific industry; B Class members or commercial interests
  - Bacteriophages for strawberry pathogens (USC)
  - Quantifying the Cost of QA (TQA)
  - A New Collaborative Paradigm for Food Safety (PMA *et al*)
  - Pistachio reduction/elimination of pathogens (PGAI)
  - Melon Best Management Practices for QA (AMA)
  - Field Tomato Food Safety Guide (Coles)
  - Develop Salad GAP (Salad Producers' Forum)
  - Foreign matter reduction on leafy salad harvesters (Salad Producers' Forum)
  - Floating crop covers for leafy salads (Britton Produce)
  - Remediation of salmonella soils (U Sydney + U California + VG levies)



## Where to from here?

- 'New HAL' may have advantages:
  - ? Consolidation of industry sectors to achieve critical mass
  - ? Individual levy payers as members may have different approach
  - ? Influence of government in setting priorities
  - ? Expanded across industry funding
- 'New HAL' may have disadvantages
  - ? Equivalent matching funds for Voluntary Contributions
  - ? Approach to matching overseas funds unknown
  - ? Consultation process
  - ? Apathetic participation







## Where to from here?

- FPSC must position to leverage levies and Voluntary Contributions
- FPSC must integrate with funding timetables
- FPSC must leverage unique relationships:
  - Government, Universities, industry bodies, supply chain stakeholders
  - Australia, New Zealand, USA, ?
  - Commercially relevant priorities and outcomes
  - Ramp up outreach of existing R&D outcomes through PMA A-NZ & FPSC networks