

Pomewest is the pome subcommittee of the pome, citrus and stone fruit Producers' Committee of the Agricultural Produce Commission

16 July 2020

**Tracey Sharpe**  
Committee Clerk  
Standing Committee on Legislation  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
**WEST PERTH WA 6000**

**SUBMISSION – BILL NO 138  
TO AMEND THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION ACT 1988**

Dear Tracey

This submission represents the views of the pome commodity of Agricultural Produce Commissions' Pome, Citrus and Stonefruit Producers' Committee. We provide services to the Western Australian apple and pear (pome fruit) growers. This industry group is made up of 117 growers located in the Perth Hills, Jarrahdale/Dwellingup, Donnybrook, Manjimup and Pemberton regions of WA.

At the outset we would like it known that as an active horticultural industry we applaud the role of the APC and their efforts to improve the current Act. As such we support all the proposed amendments in submission Bill No 138. We would also like to have recorded that our industry has been provided clear and concise information about the various changes from the management of the APC along the process, in a fully transparent manner.

The value the current Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988 represents to producers' committees can be measured by the wide range of activities and opportunities it enables. The apple and pear industry regard the model as an extremely useful tool that is utilised to empower our producers to manage their destiny for the future growth and prosperity. In turn it is structure that is envied in the apple industry nationally and enables our industry to look after its own interests and values.

The mechanism of the APC is unique in Australia, and respected for its purpose of providing WA industry with a unique advantage from the other states and territories of the country. As such, the ability to collect and expend industry funds for projects that enable us to improve Western Australian pome fruit industry to ensure that we met market requirements to consistently satisfy consumers with high quality fruit.

This in turn increases the ability to achieve the primary objectives of our industry to:

- Increasing our profitability and sustainability
- Increase quality and consumption of WA pome fruit
- Providing industry with leadership, unity and purpose

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We wish to comment on two of the proposed amendments that most directly affect our industry:

**1. The introduction of 'authorised officers' whose powers include obtaining any information or record from a producers' committee as required for 'compliance purposes';**

This amendment will enable the industry to have the assurance that all growers are to comply with the regulations to contribute to the Fee for Service for the benefit of our industry. The capacity of audit is the only true method to safeguard that compliance is being managed. In turn it gives the power to the APC to investigate and identify inequalities in the current honour system. This in turn will have increased benefit to the industry with more resources to achieve our objectives more effectively.

**2. The ability to appoint non-producers to producer's committees, if requested to do so by the producers' committee.**

This enables our committee to gain depth beyond our current grower pool of expertise. It may be that we require assistance in policy, marketing or other identified disparities which will assist us to maintain and increase our industry's professionalism in providing services to our growers. For example we may wish to engage the value chain partners in retail and wholesale to assist us to make better decisions. This change by amendment will give us flexibility and diversity in our current governing structure.

I hope that you will consider our comments in a positive manner, and hope that this letter will enable the APC to achieve its goals to improve its processes and services to the committees to which it serves.

Kind regards



Mark Scott  
Chair