



The Standing Committee on Legislation
Attn: Chair, Hon Dr Sally Talbot, MLC

RE: Proposed amendments to the Agricultural Produce Commission Act

Dear Dr Talbot,

Thank you for introducing to parliament the proposed amendments to the Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988. We would like to highlight the benefits to the WA citrus industry from collecting a citrus fee for service, possible through the Agricultural Produce Commission Act.

It has enabled activities that are relevant across industry, that individual businesses do not have the capacity to do themselves. Some examples include:

- An industry development manager who provides business, market and industry services using matching funding from State government
- A marketing program for WA citrus fruit
- A quality standard monitoring program
- Leveraging state government fund for R&D projects and export activities
- Industry communication and consultation process on business and R&D priorities and challenges
- A biosecurity officer who provides services to industry on preparedness

The majority of the proposed amendments before Parliament are in keeping with feedback from industry during the review of the Act 13 years ago in 2006. Further inclusions provide the opportunity for other industries to choose to participate and gain similar benefits from services they determine.

Parliament's consideration of the amendments are welcome and passing all or the majority of amendments will mean the APC system can operate more efficiently.

Overall the APC system means we have a strategic direction for our State industry that can be used for investment decision-making and innovation.

Yours sincerely

Mary Ann O'Connor
Chair WA Citrus
17th July, 2020