

Media Release

Andrew Broad

Member for Mallee

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NEW HORTICULTURE CODE OF CONDUCT TAKES EFFECT

A new code of conduct for the horticulture industry, which will take effect from April 1, has been developed in response to issues raised in an independent review and will seek to provide clarity around transactions between growers and wholesalers, the Member for Mallee, Andrew Broad, said today.

“During the review, the government consulted widely with industry stakeholders and the resulting recommendations will reduce red tape whilst ensuring farm-gate returns are fairer for our growers.

“The Mildura region is one of the country’s leading horticultural areas, producing 70 per cent of Australia’s almonds, 98 percent of our dried fruit, 74 per cent of our table grapes and 24 per cent of our citrus.

“Anything we, as a government can do, to improve outcomes for these growers, must be done.

“Recent statistics have shown that the agricultural-horticultural industries are once again the economic backbone of Australia and clearly, the better these industries do, the better the country will do.

“It’s critical in this equation, however, to ensure that the hardworking growers are being rewarded for their efforts; that the lion’s share of the profits does not pass them by.”

Mr. Broad says the new Code of Conduct will help ensure growers receive fair and timely returns, without negatively impacting the trade of horticultural produce.

Under the new code, which will be enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, growers and traders will be required to have fair and binding agreements in place. Those operating under pre-code contracts or other agreements will have twelve months in which to transition to the new code.

All agreements must comply with the new Code of Conduct by April 1, 2018.

More information can be found at www.agriculture.gov.au/horticulturecode

ENDS

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