

<p>Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and transport References Committee</p> <p>Inquiry into the Citrus Industry in Australia</p> <p>May 2013</p>	
<p>Submission No. 20 Sunraysia Citrus Growers Inc</p>	
<p>In particular we are disappointed at the vendetta against State Based Boards undertaken by Citrus Australia.</p>	<p>Citrus Australia does not support any 'vendetta' or bitter, destructive feud.</p> <p>In fact Sunraysia Citrus Growers Inc moved the motion in 2005 to move to a 'more modern export oriented structure' – see Citrus Australia submission No. page 12.</p> <p>Part of this structural reform has seen a number of state organisations and boards wound up voluntarily, by vote or by review by growers and industry in their own state. This has created less cost and more efficiencies and accountability in the grower funded representative structure.</p>
<p>Members of Citrus Australia dominate the recommendation process. Citrus Australia is the principal recipient of the R&D funding and the approved projects are the principal source of income for Citrus Australia.</p>	<p>Citrus Australia is pleased to reproduce the Q&A fact sheet dated 17 October 2012 and found on the website:</p> <p>Does Citrus Australia adhere to good corporate governance?</p> <p>Citrus Australia is open and transparent in all its activities and unwavering in its commitment to benefit citrus growers and the citrus industry in Australia.</p> <p>Any funds that we receive, including those for research and development, are spent for their intended purpose.</p> <p>Each year we receive funding from Horticulture Australia towards our activities. In 2011-12, we received project funding which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Citrus export market access and maintenance - National citrus communications program - Biosecurity and incursion management - Citrus levy consultation - National Plantings Database <p>For detailed information on our activities and more look out for Horticulture Australia's Citrus Industry Annual Report and Citrus Australia's own 2011-12</p>

	<p>Annual Report, to be published later this year.</p> <p>Does Citrus Australia really represent the industry?</p> <p>Citrus Australia is the national representative body of the citrus industry, formed in 2008 following a decision by growers across the country. We represent the whole industry, not just our members.</p> <p>Our member numbers have grown significantly since our formation four years ago. Our grower members hold 31% of Australia's citrus hectares. Our affiliate members –who represent businesses along the citrus value chain – have grown to almost 80. As state-based boards are wound up across the country, our membership will continue to grow. In 2011-12, we had 15 new members join, representing 933 hectares.</p> <p>Voluntary membership allows Citrus Australia to be a strong national voice and lobbyist, and complements the whole of industry representative role.</p> <p>Citrus Australia prioritises the concerns of its members, but does not limit its advocacy and activities to their sole benefit. What benefits our members, also benefits the industry.</p> <p>Every day Citrus Australia staff and board members are speaking to growers, packers, exporters and government about improving and growing our markets and on-farm practices.</p> <p>Is Citrus Australia overrepresented on the Horticulture Australia Industry Advisory Committee?</p> <p>As we are the strongest advocates for citrus issues in the country, we are also represented on Horticulture Australia's Industry Advisory Committee, which recommends which research, development and promotional projects should be funded.</p> <p>Earlier this year, in partnership with Horticulture Australia, we finalised our review of the Industry Advisory Committee and respected concerns as to the extent of our representation on this committee. There are now three Citrus Australia directors on the committee of nine.</p>
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	<p>Is the South Australian Citrus Board still operating?</p> <p>The SA citrus industry and SA government have recently reformed the SA citrus structure and have disbanded the SA Citrus Board in favour of a SA regional advisory committee, a regional arm of Citrus Australia. These reforms, which came into effect on 20 September 2012, are the result of an extensive review and industry consultation, and the process, reports and media releases are publicly available on www.pir.sa.gov.au/horticulture/citrus</p>
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