

Communique

**Meeting No: 2018.3
Date: 21 June 2018**

The Agriculture and Production Horticulture Industry Reference Committee (APH IRC) met in Sydney on 21 June 2018. Present at the meeting were APH IRC members, invited guests and representatives from Skills Impact.

Case for Endorsement 2017-18 projects

APH IRC were updated on the progress on the Case for Endorsement of the AHC Training Package and approved sign-off. The IRC noted developing improved communication processes between the Amenity Horticulture, Landscape and Conservation and Land Management IRC and Agriculture and Production Horticulture IRC. Both IRCs share the same AHC Training Package.

Confirmation of consultation: Fresh Produce Handling Course Re-accreditation

The IRC reviewed all the supporting documentation provided by the applicant for the accredited course application for **Course in Fresh Produce Handling**. Concerns were raised by a number of IRC members regarding the extent and quality of the industry consultation and the quality of the actual course. Many felt the course had a number of serious and compromising implications to food safety in the industry, if this course was to be accredited. The IRC Chair completed the "Confirmation of Consultation" form providing responses to the above three questions on behalf of the IRC members.

Skills Forecast 2018-19 projects

A number of projects require further development or the presentation of a Case for Change. The Department have also communicated with the Amenity Horticulture, Landscape and Conservation and Land Management IRC meeting last week about the project overlaps between the two IRCs who share the same AHC Training Package. The projects will require a coordinated effort and good communication.

A decision on the remaining projects will be made at the next AISC meeting in August.

Next meeting

The next face to face APH IRC meeting was proposed to be held in February 2019.