



HON PETER MCGAURAN MP
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY

M E D I A R E L E A S E

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Mandatory Horticulture Code of Conduct

The Australian Government has today decided to immediately proceed to implement a mandatory code of conduct for the wholesale horticulture sector.

The Australian Government Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Peter McGauran announced that a Mandatory Code would now be introduced, following the Government's endorsement of both its coverage and content.

Today's decision follows the recent announcement by grower organisations that only a Mandatory Code would end the market failure and abuses prevalent in the market.

"The necessary regulations will be introduced to Parliament as a matter of urgency," Mr McGauran said.

"The Mandatory Code will clarify the responsibilities and obligations of growers and wholesale traders, and improve the transparency of transactions across the fresh fruit and vegetable industry," he said.

"The Mandatory Code will provide fair, efficient and effective markets for our horticulture industry. The Code will strengthen relationships between growers and wholesalers, providing clear terms of trade and increase the certainty of their trading relationships.

"Individual growers and their industry bodies have spent considerable time and effort developing a code that will provide transparency in all transactions, identify whether wholesalers are operating as agents or merchants and provide a workable dispute resolution process," Mr McGauran said.

"I have worked closely with individual growers and their representative organisations to finalise a code that addresses market failure and provides certainty for their industry.

"The Mandatory Code that the Government will introduce has been developed over twelve months due to the tireless efforts of grower representatives, notably the National Farmers Federation, Growcom, Horticulture Australia and Ausveg, amongst others.

"I am confident the necessary regulations will be passed by the Parliament by the end of the year, with the Mandatory Code to be enacted soon afterwards," Mr McGauran concluded.