



The Hon. David Littleproud
Minister for Agriculture, Drought and Emergency Management
PO Box 6022
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

Dear Minister Littleproud

The Australian Macadamia Society (AMS) requests that the Emergency Plant Pest Response (EPPR) Levy for macadamias be deactivated to nil-rated from the current rate of \$0.2 cents per kilogram of dried macadamia kernel.

The levy was activated on 1 April 2018 to cover the costs of the macadamia industry's contributions towards the 2016 varroa mite (*Varroa jacobsoni*) incident response in Queensland. The AMS has repaid the industry liability for the 2016 incident response in full. The AMS has also been advised that, with the proposed deactivation date, the levy will comfortably raise sufficient funds to cover the industry's contribution to the 2019 varroa mite incident response in Queensland, including any additional response costs that may be required.

The AMS requests that the deactivation be given effect on 1 January 2021. This time has been chosen to minimise the chance of inequitable payment of the levy due to the range of crop delivery times across the 2020 harvest season.

The AMS is in consultation with the Department and is currently undertaking notification of macadamia levy payers of the request to deactivate the levy. The AMS proposes to hold an objection period from 1 April 2020 to 4 May 2020. The AMS proposes to notify all current and potential levy payers of the activation and objection period by an e-newsletter that is sent to over 1,000 industry levy payers and other participants as well as being posted on the AMS website. This is the same notification process that was used to request the activation of the levy.

AMS seeks your agreement to commence this process for the deactivation of our industry's EPPR levy to zero (nil-rated).

Yours sincerely

Jolyon Burnett
Chief Executive Officer.

16 March 2020