

5 February 2026

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601, Australia
Via: Have your say portal

RE: Submission to the Horticulture Code of Conduct review

Greenlife Industry Australia welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Review of the Horticulture Code of Conduct.

About Greenlife Industry Australia

Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA) is the national peak body representing Australia's nursery and green life production sector, encompassing production nurseries, retail nurseries, landscape suppliers, allied businesses, and the broader plant supply chain. The industry contributes billions to the Australian economy each year and underpins essential national priorities including urban greening, biodiversity restoration, climate resilience, and the supply of high-quality plant material to horticulture, landscaping, and environmental markets. GIA works closely with government, research partners, and industry stakeholders to strengthen biosecurity, support workforce development, and ensure the long-term sustainability and competitiveness of Australia's green life sector.

Position regarding the Horticulture Code of Conduct and the inclusion of the nursery industry

Although the nursery industry is indeed a horticultural industry, trading conditions and practices and the way commerce takes place in nursery industry is markedly different to that of fresh horticultural produce, therefore Greenlife Industry Australia's main consideration is if the Horticulture Code could be modified to adequately accommodate the needs of the nursery industry.

After reviewing the scope of the proposed changes and considering the unique characteristics of the nursery sector, our view is that while integration into an expanded Horticulture Code is technically possible, it may not represent the most effective or proportionate pathway for our industry at this time. The Code was designed around perishable edible horticulture, and meaningful inclusion of nursery would require substantial structural adjustments, exemptions, and carve-outs to avoid unintended burdens on smaller businesses and low-value transactions. However, there are aspects of the Horticultural Code of Code of conduct that currently appeal to the nursery industry, which may be considered for inclusion in future sector specific codes.

Given these limitations, and the fact that many of the trading challenges faced by nursery growers historically relate specifically to the conduct of large retail buyers, it would be more appropriate for government, departments and agencies to continue to monitor the nursery industry. Should trading conditions fail to improve, there would be a strong case for advocating a dedicated Nursery Industry Code, that reflects the commercial realities, product characteristics, and supply-chain dynamics unique to our sector.

Conclusion

GIA appreciates the opportunity to provide input and would welcome further engagement with DAFF as the review progresses.

To discuss the recommendations outlined in this submission, please contact Sean Cole, CEO at sean.cole@greenlifeindustry.org.au or on 0435 991 370.

Yours sincerely,



Sean Cole,
CEO