

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION

Protocol for relationship between Producer Committees and Industry Organisations

Producer Committees for particular Agricultural Industries are formed after extensive discussions with producers within the industry and a poll of all producers, and provided a majority of those producers voting are in favour a Producers' Committee may be formed by the Agricultural Produce Commission (APC).

The Producers' Committee must then function in accordance with the Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988 and within the functions of Section 12.1 agreed to in the poll. Producers appointed to the Committee are representatives of the industry in their own right and do not represent individual sectional interests. The Committee may seek advice from these interests.

It is the Committees responsibility to determine the services to be provided for the benefit of producers, estimate the cost of these services and then recommend a "fee for service" to the APC to recover these costs. In determining the "fee for service" and the extent of the services to be provided the committee takes into account the ability of producers to meet this cost.

Where the functions of the Committee include S12.1(m) "arrange for the provision of all or any of the services by another person or organisation" e.g., an Industry Association it is appropriate, and necessary for the committee to liase closely with that organisation. The budget of the organisation would need the approval of the committee and the final accounts audited.

The APC encourages co-operation between the various sectional interests within the industry to ensure the maximum benefits to all producers from the functions performed and financed by the "fee for service".