

APAL welcomes Federal funding for Apple Industry Bushfire Recovery Program

Peak industry body Apple and Pear Australia Limited has welcomed the [Federal Government's](#) announcement of \$31 million of funding to support NSW and SA growers and their communities rebuild following the devastating summer fires.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced yesterday that the Federal Government will match growers' contributions of up to \$120,000 per hectare to rebuild apple orchards in Batlow and Bilpin in NSW and the Adelaide Hills in SA.

APAL CEO Phil Turnbull said the funding announcement was especially welcome given the significant and ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the Australian community and the economy.

"The announcement provides much needed practical assistance to fund the clean-up of destroyed orchards and to replace trees, trellises and netting," said Mr Turnbull.

"The funding will also kickstart employment and provide a boost to the local economies," said Mr Turnbull.

APAL's '*Build Back Better: Apple Industry Bushfire Recovery Program*', developed in partnership with local growers, and presented to state and federal governments outlines a five-year road map for the fire devastated growing regions to rebuild stronger and more resilient.

"The announcement delivers welcome assistance for growers and their communities as they continue the long and difficult road to recovery."

"This year has also demonstrated the critical importance of local food production. The announcement will also ensure Australians continue to enjoy great quality, locally produced apples for years to come."

Apple and Pear Australia Limited (APAL) is Australia's peak industry body representing Australia's \$600 million apple and pear industry. APAL's international marketing operations promote Australian apple and pear exports around the globe. APAL owns the world's leading fresh produce brand, Pink Lady®, in over 100 countries.