

Horticulture Innovation Fund

Project Overview

A new building material using waste Victorian tomato vine

Made possible with the assistance of the Victorian Government



Investigating alternative paths to Industry growth

The processing tomato industry currently has no use for the waste vine post harvest, it is commonly burnt.

This project represents a proactive attempt to facilitate regional economic growth satisfying each of the key research themes of the Horticulture Innovation Fund

1. Innovative Production Systems
2. Managing Seasonal Variability
3. Improving Quality to Meet Consumer needs/ preferences
4. Accessing or maintaining export markets
5. Supporting Industry Transition



Technical Testing Facilities

The funding provided by the Horticulture Innovation Fund, in conjunction with both financial and in kind contributions from AD&VR Henry as industry growers, facilitated extensive technical testing that will accelerate the materials progress toward commercialisation.

Testing was carried out by both private and government research organisations on a “fee for service basis”. All testing took place within the state of Victoria.



Further work Facilitated

The aims of the project extended beyond purely technical testing in line with the aim of commercialisation the following activities were also undertaken:

1. **Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of typical Victorian Processing Tomato Production.** Provides an early baseline of the environmental benefits associated with vine collection in terms of carbon emissions from primary production
2. **Cost of Production Analysis (COP) of the vines collection.** A number of different methods were investigated to produce a sample of collected vine suitable for use in the material, whilst minimising collection costs. Key aim to improve grower returns and the products commercial viability



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our farm to your fork



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