



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT  
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MS23-000848

The Hon Ros Spence MP  
Minister for Agriculture  
Minister for Community Sport  
Minister for Carers and Volunteers  
1 Spring Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

[ros.spence@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:ros.spence@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Minister *Ros*

Thank you for the correspondence of 12 May 2023 from the then Minister for Agriculture, the Hon Gayle Tierney MP, concerning a request to vary the Federation Funding Agreement between the Commonwealth and Victoria for the Horticultural Netting Program.

I agree to the request that 'self-installation' be removed from 17 (g) in Table 2, Appendix A – Project Eligibility Criteria in the Schedule to the 'Horticultural Netting Program – trial' between the Commonwealth and Victoria executed on 31 March 2022.

Sections 37 and 38 of the Federation Funding Agreement – Environment (header agreement) enables the Commonwealth and participating jurisdictions to alter the contents of Schedules by written agreement. This variation will permit the Victorian Government to include labour costs for self-installation of horticultural netting as an eligible activity, including in another round of grants as the then Minister advised.

This variation is agreed to on the basis that wages will continue to be an ineligible expense, as per Table 2, Appendix A – Project Eligibility Criteria. I also note Agriculture Victoria has been working with the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, and Agriculture Victoria has proposed measures to verify grant applications and mitigate the risk of potential fraud associated with this change.

Should you have any queries, please contact Mr Paul Denny, Assistant Secretary, Food Policy Branch on (02) 6272 5757 or at [paul.denny@aff.gov.au](mailto:paul.denny@aff.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Murray Watt'.

MURRAY WATT

*20 / 10 / 2023*