

or at least lengthy transition period for changes to come into effect.

The Commission, however, has set aside this argument, saying; "... the industry has been on notice of the intention to introduce over payments for employees covered by the Horticulture Award since mid-2017.

"This was first stated in our principal decision which was issued on 5 July 2017, was reiterated in our August 2018 decision, and was reflected in the draft determination issued on 30 August 2018. For this reason we consider that a transitional period is unnecessary."

APAL is currently working through the implications of these changes for apple and pear growers and will issue a detailed response.

A copy of the Commission's decision can be viewed by going to the Fair Work website.

Exporting fruit or data?

Charles DuBourg

The Indonesia-Australia Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (IA-CEPA) signed on March 4, is only the latest in a string of Free Trade Agreements (FTA) that are now active and allow an increasing number of Australian products to be exported tariff-free or with reduced tariffs.

As 70 per cent of Australia's agricultural production is exported, these FTAs offer exciting opportunities for the industry.

"In many instances IA-CEPA will strengthen Australia's role as the preferred supplier to the burgeoning south-east Asian economy," said National Farmers' Federation CEO **Tony Mahar**.

Many growers, agronomists and other stakeholders in the supply chain are looking to increase the traceability and transparency of their products in order to ensure enduring market access in other countries.

According to Shepparton based IK Caldwell agronomist **Ruaan du Plessis** it is important to create accurate records and data for export.

"We have a tolerance list for each pest and check each block at set intervals to make sure we stay below the given tolerance level. As exports become more important, the monitoring program is becoming bigger and more rigid; which is why we require the best recording and reporting tool available for our agronomy activities.

"For the monitoring program we need to show our findings, what caused them and which action we took."

Regular monitoring and data from these checks are becoming just as important for Australia's trading partners so they can ensure they are

receiving a product that has been accurately monitored the whole time.

This poses the question about what is actually exported – fruit or data?

According to **Charles DuBourg** from Agworld the truth is probably somewhere in the middle.

"Market access to export our quality products is limited if we do not have the appropriate data to go with it."

There are many digital tools available to help growers comply with relevant legislation and they will only become more important in future.

Quality assurance is not about changing growing methods; it's all about providing traceability and transparency of current processes.

Agworld is committed to helping growers and their stakeholders to ensure they can easily gather the data they need and are able to present that to the relevant authorities in the form they require.

"As an industry, especially when it comes to exports, we have to be squeaky clean and make sure we do the right thing and document every step along the way. This is why visibility, traceability and accessibility of information are so important and this is also why Agworld is so important for me with all my daily tasks," Mr du Plessis said.

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