

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**18 December 2020**

**- INDUSTRY BALLOT RESULTS -**

**THE MUSHROOM (AGARICUS) INDUSTRY STATUTORY LEVY STAYS**

In November, Costa Mushrooms exercised its right as a levy payer, to call for a vote on the Mushroom (Agaricus) Statutory Levy. The ballot asked levy payers to provide their support for the abolishment of the marketing component of the mushroom levy – as well as to provide their support for the abolishment of the research and development component of the mushroom levy.

The Australian Mushroom Growers Association (AMGA), encouraged all levy payers to have their say, and participate in the voluntary postal vote.

Circa 72% of levy payers voted in the ballot, with the results as follows:

**Retaining the Research and Development levy: Just under 82% of the votes in favour**

**Retaining the Marketing and Promotions levy: Just under 79% of the votes in favour**

“As a peak industry body, the AMGA’s role is to advocate for our members, and to act in the best interest of the industry. This vote allowed all levy payer voices to be heard,” AMGA Chairman, Dr Geoff Martin said.

“Our statutory levy is the envy of many mushroom associations around the world, particularly our Research and Development (R&D) levy, which is extremely important to our industry as it is to any other. The R&D levy is matched by dollar-for-dollar with Australian Government funding.

“AMGA is committed to working with all levy payers, large or small, to preserve and grow the industry through shared knowledge and effective marketing and advertising that will increase volumes and market share for levy payers,” he added.

While the majority of levy payers have voted in favour of keeping the statutory levy, the AMGA board and members, including AMGA member, Costa, acknowledges that there are some imperfections with the current management of the levies; AMGA has commissioned a business case for presentation to Hort Innovation in early 2021.

Details will be shared with industry, following the outcome of the presentation.

**- ENDS –**

For further information please contact:

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Further information about the Statutory Levy and the AMGAs position can be found via this link:  
<https://bit.ly/2LqSC29>