

# Summerfruit Australia Limited

## 2017 elections

This will be the eleventh election for directors for Summerfruit Australia Limited. The process will be like the previous elections and members should note that elections are an annual event. It is not a requirement to vote although Directors encourage all members to exercise their democratic right.

### ***The process***

Summerfruit Australia Limited will follow a set process for the election of Directors, as set out in the Constitution. Please have a read through (available on the website [www.summerfruit.com.au](http://www.summerfruit.com.au)) so that you are familiar with what will happen. The following is a diagram of the way in which this will occur

Membership open
Nominations are called Friday 10th March, 2017
Nominations closed Tuesday 2nd May, 2017
Membership list closed Tuesday 2nd May, 2017
Postal ballot commences Tuesday 16th May, 2017
Postal ballot closes Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June, 2017
Ballot declared soon after ballot close

### ***Membership open***

Membership is now open and all members are invited to participate. Directors have set the 2016/17 membership fee \$110.0 (inc GST). A membership form is available on the Summerfruit Australia website [www.summerfruit.com.au](http://www.summerfruit.com.au)

A member of Summerfruit Australia Limited is a business entity, with one vote per member irrespective of size. Each member will be represented by a single person (the business representative) and they will hold the vote for the member.

All registered levy paying businesses who apply for membership will automatically become A class members unless they opt not to do so. Only A class members will be allowed to vote in this election. B class members are those who are not levy paying businesses.

Note that each business has one representative as indicated by you when you joined. If you wish to change this representative it is possible up until the membership list is closed.

***Nominations are called (March 10<sup>th</sup>)***

Nominations will open on March 10 for those wishing to become directors of Summerfruit Australia Limited. A person who wishes to nominate for the 2017 elections must be a representative of an A member, and they also must have the support of at least two representatives of A class members. A nomination form will need to be completed before a nomination can be accepted. Note that retiring directors are able to re-nominate.

As well as the above prospective, directors will be required to complete a 'Consent to Act as a Director' Form. This is to ensure that we comply with the Corporations legislation.

***Nominations close (May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3.00 pm)***

At least 45 days after the call for nominations they close. At the completion, of this process the nominations are vetted to ensure they comply with the constitution. If the number of nominations in any one state is equal to the vacancies then the poll for that state is declared and no vote is necessary.

If the number of nominations for any state is more than the vacancies (ie: one), then an election (by way of a confidential postal ballot) will be held in that state. If the number of nominations is less than the vacancies (ie nil) in that state then the vacancy may be filled by candidates selected by the directors.

***Membership list closed (May 2<sup>nd</sup> 3.00pm)***

Prior to any ballot the membership list for Summerfruit Australia Limited will be closed. Until the time indicated above, new members may join and alterations to the business representative and other details may be made. When the list is closed, no other alterations are possible until after the election process is completed.

The membership list will be used to mail out ballot papers if required.

***Postal ballot commences (May 16<sup>th</sup>)***

Elections for Summerfruit Australia Limited will be by confidential postal ballot. A series of envelopes and voting papers will be sent to each A class member to complete and return.

The voting system is similar to government electoral voting and your preference is indicated by voting 1 for the most preferred candidate. Do not use ticks and crosses to indicate your preference. You may only vote for the candidates in your state (as determined by the principal business address).

***Postal Ballot ends (June 7<sup>th</sup>, 3.00 pm)***

Three weeks after the ballot commences it will close. After this time, no other votes will be allowed. The time above indicates the close of the ballot.

An independent returning officer will examine each vote to ensure it has been properly undertaken and count the votes for each candidate.

***Ballot declared***

At the completion of the counting of the votes the returning officer will declare the vote.