



# MEDIA RELEASE

## New Export Record Set by Almonds



7 August 2015

The Australian almond industry has broken through the \$100 million barrier for monthly export sales with the Australian Bureau of Statistics reporting overseas shipments of almonds had a value of \$118 million dollars for the month of June. This is the highest ever figure for monthly sales, beating the previous amount of \$90 million shipped in May this year.

The almond industry, with its major growing regions on the Murray and Murrumbidgee rivers, is well on its way to reaching its forecast export sales for 2015 of 55,000 tonnes worth more than \$600 million.

The June sales figure was 75% higher than the same month last year and the year to June export figure of \$318 million is \$79 million more than at the same time 12 months ago.

“The industry marketers continue to do an excellent job in selling the record 2015 crop at prices averaging \$11.55 a kilo for the first six months of the year, well above last year’s prices” said Ross Skinner, CEO of the Almond Board of Australia.

“Strong demand for Australian almonds exists, and with the improving global price quoted in US dollars combined with the falling Australian dollar also working in our favour, the return on export tonnage has risen significantly throughout this year”.

“In the past three years the average export price, as published by the ABS, has moved from around the five dollar mark to a level now in excess of eleven dollars after coming off slightly from the average monthly figure in April of \$12.81” he said.

India is Australia’s single largest market with over 10,600 tonnes already shipped compared to 7,100 tonnes last year.

“The recent Free Trade Agreements with Japan and Korea combined with the industry’s focus on promoting the Australian almond brand in these countries has resulted in promising gains of 295% and 145%, albeit off a low base”.

“The China and India FTA’s will be very advantageous to the Australian industry as these are two of the largest almond markets in the world and the removal of tariffs will make a significant impact on returns from these markets” Mr Skinner stated.

The Almond Board of Australia reports that the industry has bounced back well from the challenging period towards the end of the drought when the severe water allocation reductions and high prices for water impacted on the bottom line of producers. Now many producers are again investing in establishing new orchards to meet the world’s growing appetite for almonds.

“Many hundreds of millions of dollars will be invested within the river communities in the next few years as orchards are planted and brought into production with nurseries reporting they are busier now than during the previous period of rapid expansion during the mid 2000’s”.

“Even with this large growth in the Australian industry it will represent less than a 3% increase in global productive capacity once orchards mature, much less than the annual growth in demand of between 5 and 10 percent in the years before sales have been stifled by plateauing supply”.

“The recovery of the Californian industry in the years after their drought breaks will be the telling factor on future prices along with how large the pent up demand for almonds is once supply again starts to increase” Mr Skinner said.

For the time being, with the orchards about to flower to commence the growing of the 2016 crop, the industry producers can savour this period of good profitability.

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**For further information contact:**

- Ross Skinner, CEO on 0448 049 202

The following local contacts are also available:

- **Adelaide growing region:** Dominic Cavallaro 0417 839 082
- **Riverland growing region:** Brendan Sidhu 0417 893 038
- **Sunraysia growing region:** Neale Bennett 0418 990 391 / Tim Orr 0417 597 191
- **Riverina growing region:** Dennis Dinicola 0417 597 191

*The Almond Board of Australia (ABA) is a non profit, membership based organisation representing the interests of Australian almond growers, processors and marketers.*

*As the Australian almond industry's peak industry body, the ABA facilitates further growth of the industry, seeks to maximise its profitability and ensure its sustainability, by providing a platform for industry members to collectively respond to industry-wide issues, invest in research and marketing, share knowledge and interact with government and other stakeholders.*

*Key almond growing areas are located in Sunraysia (Victoria), the Riverland and Adelaide (South Australia) and the Riverina region (New South Wales).*

*For more information visit [www.australionalmonds.com.au](http://www.australionalmonds.com.au) or email: [admin@australionalmonds.com.au](mailto:admin@australionalmonds.com.au)*