Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding

Frequently Asked Questions

for Growers in the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No 1) and the 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Timbercorp Almond Projects

1 What Project am I in?

Call the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or email investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

2 How many lots do I have?

Call the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or email investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

3 Do I owe money to Timbercorp Securities Limited (in liquidation) and how much? Call the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or email investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

4 Do I owe money to Timbercorp Finance Pty Ltd (in liquidation) and how much?

Call the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or email investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

5 What's my entitlement under the Compromise?

Under the Compromise, an amount of \$186.57 per lot located on the land formerly owned by Almond Land will be set aside for Growers. The entitlement of Growers in each Almond Project will differ depending on the percentage of lots in that Almond Project that were located on the land formerly owned by Almond Land. Each Grower's entitlement will be determined on the basis of the lots held by them as at 2 December 2009. See FAQ 34 and 35 for more details and a table of Growers' entitlements for each Almond Project.

When am I going to receive my entitlement under the Compromise?

The Compromise (and the similar compromises in relation to other Timbercorp Projects) must be approved by the Supreme Court (or the Court of Appeal) before any payments are made. You will be notified if Court Approval is received and, if so, of the expected date of payment. The date of any Court Approval and payment will be after October 2012.

If you do not have any loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects, your entitlement will be paid as soon as possible after Court approval is received.

If you have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects, you may direct that your entitlement is paid to Timbercorp Finance to reduce your loan balance. If your entitlement exceeds the amount you owe to Timbercorp Finance, you can direct that the excess be used to pay any amounts you owe to TSL or to pay other loans you have with Timbercorp Finance. Otherwise, the excess will be paid to you.

You will need to complete a new Direction to Pay Form specifically relating to the Compromise, even if you have previously provided a Timbercorp Finance or TSL direction to pay in relation to other distributions. You can obtain an Almond Direction to Pay Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

If you do not execute an Almond Direction to Pay Form for loans you have owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation the Almond Projects, your entitlement will be held on trust, in an interest bearing account, pending a legal determination in relation to the competing claims of Growers and Timbercorp Finance to the entitlement.

If you do not have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects, but you have amounts owing to TSL, and you do not execute an Almond Direction to Pay Form, you will still receive your entitlement.

7 How am I going to receive my payment?

Payments to Growers (who do not have any loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects) will be made by direct deposit into the bank account nominated by the Grower. Payments will only be made by direct deposit and will not be made by cheque.

If you have not previously provided TSL with a completed direct credit authorisation, you will need to nominate a bank account to receive your payment. You can obtain a Bank Account Nomination Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

If you have previously provided TSL with a completed direct credit authorisation nominating a bank account, any payment to you will be made by direct deposit to that bank account, unless you nominate a different bank account now.

If you have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects and you have not executed an Almond Direction to Pay Form, your entitlement will be held in trust, in an interest bearing account, until there is a legal determination in relation to the competing claims of Growers and Timbercorp Finance to the entitlement.

If you have executed an Almond Direction to Pay Form and your entitlement exceeds the amount you owe to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects, unless you have directed that the excess be used to pay amounts owing by you to TSL or to pay other loans you have with Timbercorp Finance, the excess will be paid by direct deposit into the bank account nominated by you. You can obtain a Bank Account Nomination Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

I have previously completed a direct credit authorisation, do I need to nominate a another bank account?

If you have previously provided TSL with a completed direct credit authorisation nominating a bank account, any payment to you will be made by direct deposit to that bank account, unless you nominate a different bank account now.

9 Once I have nominated a bank account, will it be used for other payments to me (if any) in the future?

Yes, once you nominate a bank account, any future payment to be made to you by TSL will be made by direct deposit to that nominated bank account, unless you nominate a different bank account to TSL.

10 Do I need to sign any documents in relation to the Compromise?

If the Compromise and the compromises in relation to other Timbercorp Projects are approved by the Supreme Court, they will be binding on each Grower, even though the Grower did not sign the deed of compromise.

You will need to nominate a bank account into which your entitlement will be paid. You can obtain a Bank Account Nomination Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

If you have previously provided TSL with a completed direct credit authorisation nominating a bank account, any payment to you will be made by direct deposit to that bank account, unless you nominate a different bank account now.

If you have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance or amounts owing to TSL in relation to the Almond Projects, you may direct that your entitlement is used to reduce the amounts owing by you. You can obtain an Almond Direction to Pay Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

You will need to complete a new Almond Direction to Pay Form specifically relating to the Compromise, even if you have previously provided a Timbercorp Finance or TSL direction to pay in relation to other distributions.

11 What is the Direction to Pay Form and do I need to complete one?

A Direction to Pay Form is a Grower's direction to TSL to use the Grower's entitlement to reduce the Grower's loan balances owing to Timbercorp Finance or to reduce the amounts owing by the Grower to TSL.

You will need to complete a new Almond Direction to Pay Form specifically relating to the Compromise, even if you have previously executed a Timbercorp Finance or TSL direction to pay in relation to other distributions.

Growers who have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects do not have to complete an Almond Direction to Pay Form but if they do not, their entitlement will be held on trust, in an interest bearing account, pending determination of the competing claims of the Grower and Timbercorp Finance.

Growers can execute an Almond Direction to Pay Form, but direct that only part of their entitlement be used to reduce their loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects. If any amount remains owing to Timbercorp Finance, the rest of the Grower's entitlement will be held on trust, in an interest bearing account, pending determination of the competing claims of the Grower and Timbercorp Finance.

If you do not have a loan owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects but have amounts owing to TSL, and you do not complete an Almond Direction to Pay Form, you will still receive your entitlement.

What happens if I don't want to use my entitlement to pay Timbercorp Finance / TSL?

If you have loans owing to Timbercorp Finance in relation to the Almond Projects and you do not execute an Almond Direction to Pay Form, your entitlement will be held on trust, in an interest bearing account, pending a legal determination in relation to the competing claims of Growers and Timbercorp Finance to the entitlement.

If you have amounts owing to TSL but no loans owing to Timbercorp Finance and you do not execute an Almond Direction to Pay Form, your entitlement will be paid to you by direct deposit into your nominated bank account. If you have not previously provided TSL with a completed direct credit authorisation, you will need to nominate a bank account to receive your payment. You can obtain a Bank Account Nomination Form at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51 www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

If you do not use your entitlement to pay Timbercorp Finance or TSL, you will remain liable to pay the amounts owing (plus applicable interest) to them.

13 What happens if my entitlement does not pay Timbercorp Finance / TSL in full?

If you direct that your entitlement be used to pay Timbercorp Finance or TSL but your entitlement is not sufficient to pay the full amount you owe to Timbercorp Finance or TSL, you will remain liable to pay the balance owing (plus applicable interest) to them.

14 If I sign an Almond Direction to Pay Form, can I still dispute that Timbercorp Finance / TSL were entitled to be paid?

Yes, signing the Almond Direction to Pay Form and the use of your entitlement to pay Timbercorp Finance or TSL does not affect your right to dispute that Timbercorp Finance or TSL were entitled to be paid.

15 If I am a Grower in more than one Timbercorp Project and I want to use my entitlements from all of my Projects to pay Timbercorp Finance / TSL, do I need to sign a direction to pay form for each Project?

There is a separate direction to pay form for Timbercorp Olive Projects, Timbercorp Almond Projects and the 2005 Timbercorp Citrus Project.

If you are <u>only</u> a Grower in Olive Projects, you only need sign one Olive Direction to Pay Form, even if you are a Grower in several Olive Projects.

If you are <u>only</u> a Grower in Almond Projects, you only need sign one Almond Direction to Pay Form, even if you are a Grower in several Almond Projects.

If you are <u>only</u> a Grower in the 2005 Citrus Project, you only need sign one Citrus Direction to Pay Form.

If you are a Grower in Olive Projects and Almond Projects, you will have to sign an Olive Direction to Pay Form for the Olive Projects and a separate Almond Direction to Pay Form for the Almond Projects.

If you are a Grower in Olive Projects and the 2005 Citrus Project, you will have to sign an Olive Direction to Pay Form for the Olive Projects and a separate Citrus Direction to Pay Form for the 2005 Citrus Project.

If you are a Grower in Almond Projects and the 2005 Citrus Project, you will have to sign an Almond Direction to Pay Form for the Almond Projects and a separate Citrus Direction to Pay Form for the 2005 Citrus Project.

If you are a Grower in Olive Projects, Almond Projects and the 2005 Citrus Project, you will have to sign an Olive Direction to Pay Form for the Olive Projects and a separate Almond Direction to Pay Form for the Almond Projects and a separate Citrus Direction to Pay Form for the 2005 Citrus Project.

16 What is the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding and how does it relate to me?

The Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding is a legal proceeding which is currently in the Supreme Court of Victoria Court of Appeal. It is an appeal of the judgment of Justice Davies of the Supreme Court of Victoria in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding.

The Almond Land Rights Proceeding was heard and determined in 2011. The purpose of the Almond Land Rights Proceeding was to determine who was entitled to the net proceeds of sale of the land and other assets which were used in the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No 1) and the 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Timbercorp Almond Projects. The parties who were claiming an entitlement to the proceeds were:

- the secured creditors, BOSI Security Services Limited (as trustee for Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ), BOS International (Australia) Limited and Westpac Banking Corporation), and ANZ in its own right, which had (among other security) a mortgage over the land and a charge over the other assets;
- the Growers in the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No 1) and the 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Timbercorp Almond Projects; and

The Supreme Court found that the secured creditors were entitled to all of the net proceeds of sale and the Growers were not entitled to any of the net proceeds. The Growers have appealed this decision, in the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding.

If the Compromise is approved by the Supreme Court or the Court of Appeal and the compromises in relation to the other Timbercorp Projects are also approved, the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding will not continue and the Growers will receive a payment from the secured lenders in accordance with the Compromise. Growers will lose the right to argue for a different share of the net sale proceeds.

17 Who are the Representative Growers and what is their role?

The Representative Growers are representing all Growers in the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding. There is a Representative Grower for each of the relevant Timbercorp Almond Projects. If the Compromise is not approved and the Almond Land

Rights Appeal Proceeding continues, the Representative Growers and their lawyers will appear in Court and try to prove that the Growers are entitled to a share of the net sale proceeds. It is unlikely that the appeal will be heard and determined by the Court of Appeal before mid 2013. The names of the Representative Growers are set out in the First Notice to Growers.

18 How were the Representative Growers chosen?

The Timbercorp Growers Group was asked to nominate Growers willing to act as Representative Growers. Some other Growers also wanted to be the Representative Growers. The Supreme Court of Victoria decided which of the Growers would be appointed as the Representative Growers. The names of the Representative Growers are set out in the First Notice to Growers.

19 Which lawyers are acting for Growers?

Clarendon Lawyers and barristers appointed by them. TSL has agreed to pay, from its own funds, the fees and costs of Clarendon Lawyers and those barristers in relation to the application for approval of the Compromise. These fees and costs will not be deducted from the sale proceeds of amounts payable to Growers.

20 Why have the Representative Growers agreed to the Compromise?

The Representative Growers have obtained legal advice in relation to the Compromise and have considered it and other matters such as the delays and uncertainty if it is necessary to proceed with a contested trial in the Court of Appeal to decide who is entitled to the net sale proceeds. The lawyers and barristers who gave the legal advice took into account (among other things) the decision in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding and the appeal of that decision. On the basis of the legal advice, the certainty of the payments to be made under the Compromise once approved by the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) and the cost and delay before the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding would be finally heard and determined by the Court of Appeal, the Representative Growers consider that the Compromise is for the benefit of the Growers in the Almond Projects.

21 Can I have a copy of the advice given to the Responsible Growers?

A copy of the advice will be provided free of charge to any Grower who writes to Clarendon lawyers requesting a copy of the advice, or any lawyer for a Grower who writes to Clarendon Lawyers requesting the advice on behalf of any identified Grower, provided that the Grower or lawyer requesting the copy of the advice provides Clarendon Lawyers with a signed document acknowledging the common interest privilege and undertaking to treat the advice as strictly confidential. Written requests should be addressed to Clarendon Lawyers and emailed to investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

What is the Compromise reached by the parties to the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding?

If the Compromise is approved by the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) and the other compromises in relation to the other Timbercorp Projects are also approved, Growers will be entitled, in total, to \$6,000,000 which is approximately 5% of the gross sale proceeds. This equates to \$186.57 per lot located on the land formerly owned by Almond Land. The remaining proceeds will be retained by the secured creditors. All parties, including all Growers, will release all other parties from the claims they may otherwise have had in relation to the sale proceeds.

23 How was the figure of \$6,000,000 reached?

The amount was reached by agreement between the secured creditors, the land owner and the Representative Growers.

24 Can I have a copy of the Compromise Deed?

The Compromise Deed is available online at any of:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au
www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51
www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm

or by:

- calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200 or
- emailing investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au.

25 What conditions have to be satisfied in order for the Compromise to proceed?

The Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) must approve the Compromise and the similar compromises reached in relation to other Timbercorp Projects by 31 December 2012 or such later date as is agreed. The Supreme Court or Court of Appeal may approve the Compromise if it is satisfied that the Compromise is for the benefit of Growers.

26 What are the other compromises that require approval?

Similar compromises have been reached in relation to the proceedings which were commenced to determine how the net proceeds from the sales of assets used in the other Timbercorp Almond Projects, the Timbercorp Olive Projects and the 2005 Timbercorp Citrus Project. These compromises are also subject to Court approval. The other proceedings are:

- Supreme Court of Victoria Proceeding No S CI 2011 6604 (Liparoo and Yungera Rights Proceeding) which relates to the 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 Timbercorp Almond Projects and the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No 1)
- Supreme Court of Victoria Proceeding No S CI 2011 6606 (Solora Rights Proceeding) which relates to the 2005 Timbercorp Citrus Project
- Supreme Court of Victoria Proceeding No S CI 2011 6777 (Fenceport Rights Proceeding) which relates to the 2000 Timbercorp Olive Project (Private Offer) and the 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004 Timbercorp Olive Projects and
- Supreme Court of Victoria Proceeding No S CI 2010 1354 (BB Olives Rights Proceeding) which relates to the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Timbercorp Olive Projects

The 2002 and 2005 Timbercorp Almond Projects and 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No 1) were conducted on more than one almond plantation, which were sold in different sale transactions. Those Projects are therefore involved in both the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding and the Liparoo and Yungera Rights Proceeding.

When will the Supreme Court of Victoria (or Court of Appeal) decide whether to approve the Compromise?

A date for the hearing has not yet been set. It will not be before October 2012. Once the date of the hearing has been determined, it will be posted on the following websites:

www.clarendonlawyers.com.au

www.kordamentha.com/creditor-information/Australia/51

www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromises.htm.

The Court may take some time after the hearing to decide whether to approve the Compromise and the similar compromises in relation to the other Timbercorp Projects.

What happens if the Supreme Court of Victoria (or Court of Appeal) does not approve the Compromise?

If the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) does not approve the Compromise (or the other similar compromises), the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding will continue. The Court of Appeal will determine who is entitled to the net sale proceeds. It is unlikely that the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding would be heard and determined before mid 2013.

29 Are there tax consequences for me as a result of the Compromise?

There may be tax consequences for you, depending on your individual circumstances. You should ask your own financial or tax adviser.

30 Can I object to the Compromise?

Yes. You can object by email to investorqueries@timbercorp.com.au or by calling the hotline on (03) 8615 1200. If you object to the Compromise, you may raise your objection at the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) hearing of the application for approval of the Compromise. Growers may choose to appear in person or have their own lawyers represent them. You should seek your own legal advice if you wish to appear or have your lawyers appear on your behalf.

What happens if a Grower objects to the Compromise?

All objections received from Growers before 14 September 2012 will be disclosed to the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) at the hearing of the application for approval of the Compromise. If your objection is received after that time but before the hearing of the application, the Representative Growers will use their best efforts to ensure that it is also disclosed to the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal). The Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) will consider the objections received from Growers and disclosed to it when determining whether the Compromise is for the benefit of Growers.

32 Am I bound by the Compromise?

If the Compromise is approved by the Supreme Court (or Court of Appeal) and the other compromises are also approved, all Growers will be bound by the Compromise. Growers will lose the right to argue for a different share of the net sale proceeds.

Who can I talk to about the Compromise if I have a comment, question or objection?

You can call the hotline on (03) 8615 1200. If the hotline staff cannot answer your question, they will refer it to Clarendon Lawyers, who are acting for the Representative Growers. Someone from Clarendon Lawyers will then respond to you.

34 How much are the Growers in the other schemes getting?

Timbercorp Olive Project	Fenceport Compromise entitlement per lot	BB Olives Compromise entitlement per lot	Total entitlement per lot
2000 Olive (Private Offer)	\$163.81	-	\$163.81
2001 Olive	\$163.81	-	\$163.81
2002 Olive	\$163.81	-	\$163.81
2003 Olive	\$163.81	-	\$163.81
2004 Olive	\$163.81	-	\$163.81
2006 Olive	-	\$92.43	\$92.43
2007 Olive	-	\$92.43	\$92.43
2008 Olive	-	\$92.43	\$92.43

Timbercorp Almond Project	Almond Land Compromise Grower entitlement per lot (subject to claim by the Litigation Funders)	Liparoo & Yungera Compromise Grower entitlement per lot	Tree purchase per lot	Total Grower entitlement per lot
2001 Almond	-	\$521.31	\$2000	\$2521.31
2002 Almond (Private Offer No 1)	\$53.46	\$371.93	-	\$425.39
2002 Almond	\$54.89	\$367.93	-	\$422.82
2003 Almond	-	\$521.31	-	\$521.31
2004 Almond	-	\$521.31	-	\$521.31
2005 Almond	\$121.24	\$182.54	-	\$303.78
2006 Almond	\$186.57	-	-	\$186.57
2007 Almond	\$186.57	-	-	\$186.57

Timbercorp Citrus Project	Solora Compromise entitlement per lot	Total entitlement per lot
2005 Citrus	\$316.80	\$316.80

Some land used in the 2002 and 2005 Timbercorp Almond Projects and the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No. 1) was sold in the Almond Land sale

transaction and the remainder in the Liparoo and Yungera sale transaction. Growers in those Projects therefore have an entitlement under both compromises. The amount set aside for Growers from each compromise is determined by the number of lots in that Project that were on the relevant land. These amounts are then allocated to Growers on the basis of the total number of lots in the Project. This results in the amount per lot being reduced in proportion to the percentage of lots in that Project that were located on the relevant land.

The Growers' Appeal of the decision in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding has been funded by Litigation Funders. Those Litigation Funders have indicated that they intend to seek a payment from the Growers' entitlement under the compromise of the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding. If they are successful in this claim (in whole or in part), the amounts that Growers in the 2002, 2005, 2006 and 2007 Timbercorp Almond Project and the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No. 1) receive will be reduced accordingly.

If the Supreme Court is not prepared to hear and determine the Litigation Funders' claim until after the hearing of the application for approval of the compromise of the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding, the Supreme Court may require that the Growers' entitlement under the compromise of the Almond Land Rights Appeal Proceeding be held on trust, in an interest bearing account, until the Litigation Funders' claim is heard and determined. This will not affect the distribution of Growers' entitlements under any other compromise.

Why are some Growers getting more than others?

Approximately 5% of the gross proceeds of each sale transaction are being set aside for Growers. The sale proceeds differed between the sale transactions depending on how much the relevant buyers were prepared to pay. This varied depending on the location and value of the land, the age of the trees and other factors.

The amount set aside for Growers from each sale transaction is then divided by the number of lots in the relevant Projects.

Unlike the other Timbercorp Projects, Growers in the 2001 Timbercorp Almond Project, owned the trees on their lot. The governing documents for the 2001 Timbercorp Almond Project provide that Growers are entitled to \$2,000 per lot for the trees on their lot when the trees were sold. Those Growers are therefore entitled to an additional \$2,000 per lot. The governing documents for the other Timbercorp Projects do not have the same provisions.

Some land used in the 2002 and 2005 Timbercorp Almond Projects and the 2002 Timbercorp Almond Project (Private Offer No. 1) was sold in the Almond Land sale transaction and the remainder in the Liparoo and Yungera sale transaction. Growers in those Projects therefore have an entitlement under both compromises. The amount set aside for Growers from each compromise is determined by the number of lots in that Project that were on the relevant land. These amounts are then allocated to Growers on the basis of the total number of lots in the Project. This results in the amount per lot being reduced in proportion to the percentage of lots in that Project that were located on the relevant land.

36 Where can I get a copy of the governing documents for my Project?

The governing documents for the Almond Projects, such as the constitution, licence and joint venture agreement or lease and management agreement are available on line at www.abl.com.au/timbercorp/compromise.htm.

37 Why aren't Growers in the Table Grape or 2004 Citrus Projects getting anything?

A compromise agreement has not been reached between the Growers in these Projects and the other interested parties. The net sale proceeds are being held on trust until an agreement is reached or a Court decides who is entitled to the net sale proceeds.

38 What happened in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding?

The Almond Land Rights proceeding was heard by Justice Davies of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 2011. Her Honour determined that the Growers were not entitled to any of the net sale proceeds. Instead, the secured creditors were entitled to all of the net sale proceeds.

The Growers have appealed this decision but the appeal has not yet been heard.

What is happening with the appeal of the decision in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding?

The parties have completed all the necessary preliminary steps required before the Court of Appeal will set a date for the hearing of the appeal, however the date for the hearing has not yet been set.

If the Compromises are not approved by the Supreme Court, the appeal will continue. It is not expected to be heard before mid 2013.

Why are Litigation Funders claiming part of the amount that is being set aside for Growers under the Compromise?

In order to pursue the Appeal of the decision in the Almond Land Rights Proceeding, the Representative Growers entered into an arrangement with third parties, Litigation Funders, to fund the Appeal proceeding. Under the terms of the Litigation Funding Agreement, in return for the Litigation Funders accepting the risk associated with the Appeal proceeding, the Litigation Funders are entitled to be reimbursed for the amounts they have paid to fund the appeal proceeding and are also entitled to be paid up to 25% of any amount payable to Growers if the Appeal is successful or the Growers receive a payment to settle the Appeal. The Litigation Funders will only receive a payment if the Court approves the payment.

In accordance with the Litigation Funding Agreement, the Litigation Funders have indicated that they intend to seek a payment from the amount that Growers receive under the compromise of the Almond Land Rights Proceeding. The names of the Litigation Funders are set out in the First Notice to Growers.

41 How much are the Litigation Funders claiming?

The Litigation Funders are seeking to be reimbursed for the amounts they have paid to fund the Appeal, currently estimated to be \$180,000 and are seeking to be paid an additional \$1,500,000 (being 25% of the amount being paid to Growers under the Compromise). These payments are subject to Court approval.