

The Costs and Economic Benefits of Plant Breeder's Rights in Australia

WHO WAS SURVEYED?

130 Australian organisations
From an estimated 350 Australian organisations using PBR



- 70 nurseries
- 11 forage crops
- 5 vegetables
- 24 fruit and nuts
- 20 broadacre

COST OF PURSUING

Average cost of pursuing a PBR was ~\$25,000

- > Broadacre and forage crop sectors reported the highest average costs
- > Growing trials reported as the costliest part of pursuing a PBR
- > Costs are linked to how long it takes the plant to grow

IMPORTANCE IN COMMERCIALISATION

96% of varieties with PBR protection have been commercialised.

- > PBR is likely to have the most importance in open-pollinated broadacre crops

Main reasons for not commercialising

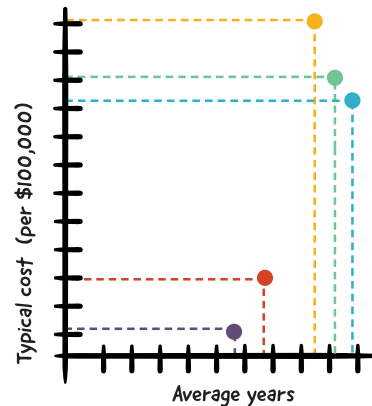
- > The variety would not be competitive in the marketplace or the market was unsuitable or too small

Why don't organisations apply for a PBR?

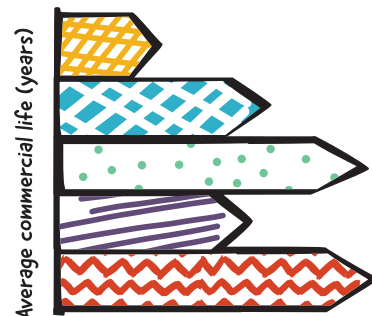
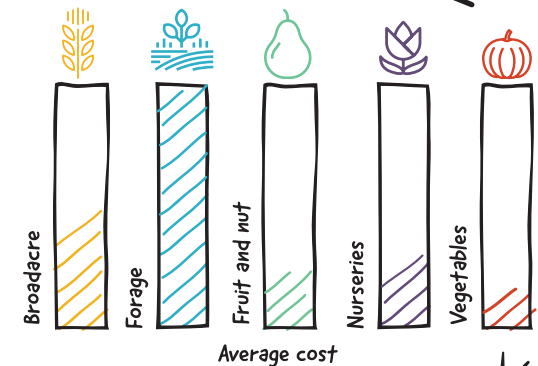
- > Similar to another variety on the market; market too small; variety is a hybrid; not worried about infringement

In the last 5 years, varieties that had some PBR protection brought in a total average revenue of at least \$793,000 (so far – some still in the market)

Average commercial life of varieties with PBR is 14.9 years



Organisations invest an average of \$507,000 and 7.3 years on breeding and developing a new variety but costs vary greatly by sector



IMPACT ON INCENTIVES TO INVEST AND INNOVATE

- > Concerns around unauthorised use of varieties.
- > Organisations that experience unauthorised use are also the heaviest users of alternative forms of protection (e.g. contracts and trade marks).
- > 38% of respondents support their ongoing breeding activities by reinvesting funds produced through plant breeding.
- > Only 12% reported that Government or industry bodies were their largest source of funding (predominantly in broadacre crops, forage crops and fruit and nut).

