

# ***PR 2002/97 - Income tax: Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1***

⚠ This cover sheet is provided for information only. It does not form part of *PR 2002/97 - Income tax: Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1*

⚠ This document has changed over time. This is a consolidated version of the ruling which was published on *26 June 2002*



# Product Ruling

## Income tax: Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1

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### Preamble

The number, subject heading, and the *What this Product Ruling is about* (including *Tax law(s)*, *Class of persons and Qualifications* sections), *Date of effect*, *Withdrawal*, *Arrangement* and *Ruling* parts of this document are a 'public ruling' in terms of Part IVAAA of the *Taxation Administration Act 1953*. Product Ruling PR 1999/95 explains Product Rulings and Taxation Rulings TR 92/1 and TR 97/16 together explain when a Ruling is a public ruling and how it is binding on the Commissioner.

### No guarantee of commercial success

The Australian Taxation Office (ATO) **does not** sanction or guarantee this product. Further, we give no assurance that the product is commercially viable, that charges are reasonable, appropriate or represent industry norms, or that projected returns will be achieved or are reasonably based.

Potential participants must form their own view about the commercial and financial viability of the product. This will involve a consideration of important issues such as whether projected returns are realistic, the 'track record' of the management, the level of fees in comparison to similar products, how this product fits an existing portfolio, etc. We recommend a financial (or other) adviser be consulted for such information.

This Product Ruling provides certainty for potential participants by confirming that the tax benefits set out below in the **Ruling** part of this document are available **provided that** the arrangement is carried out in accordance with the information we have been given and have described below in the **Arrangement** part of this document.

If the arrangement is not carried out as described below, participants lose the protection of this Product Ruling. Potential participants may wish to seek assurances from the promoter that the arrangement will be carried out as described in this Product Ruling.

Potential participants should be aware that the ATO will be undertaking review activities to confirm the arrangement has been implemented as described below and to ensure that the participants in the arrangement include in their income tax returns income derived in those future years.

### Terms of Use of this Product Ruling

This Product Ruling has been given on the basis that the person(s) who applied for the Ruling, and their associates, will abide by strict terms of use. Any failure to comply with the terms of use may lead to the withdrawal of this Ruling.

Potential participants may wish to refer to the ATO's Internet site at <http://www.ato.gov.au> or contact the ATO directly to confirm the currency of this Product Ruling or any other Product Ruling that the ATO has issued.

## What this Product Ruling is about

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1. This Ruling sets out the Commissioner's opinion on the way in which the 'tax laws' identified below apply to the defined class of persons who take part in the arrangement to which this Ruling refers. In this Ruling this arrangement is sometimes referred to as the 'Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1', or simply as 'the Project'.

### Tax laws

2. The tax laws dealt with in this Ruling are:
- section 6-5 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* ('ITAA 1997');
  - section 8-1 (ITAA 1997);
  - section 17-5 (ITAA 1997);
  - Division 27 (ITAA 1997);
  - Division 35 (ITAA 1997);
  - Division 40 (ITAA 1997);
  - Division 328 (ITAA 1997);
  - section 82KL of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1936* ('ITAA 1936');
  - section 82KZME (ITAA 1936);
  - section 82KZMF (ITAA 1936); and
  - Part IVA (ITAA 1936).

### Goods and Services Tax

3. In this Ruling all fees and expenditure referred to include Goods and Services Tax ('GST') where applicable. In order for an entity (referred to in this Ruling as a Grower) to be entitled to claim input tax credits for the GST included in its expenditure, it must be registered or required to be registered for GST and hold a valid tax invoice.

### Changes in the Law

4. The Government is currently evaluating further changes to the tax system in response to the *Ralph Review of Business Taxation* and continuing business tax reform is expected to be implemented over a number of years. Although this Ruling deals with the taxation

legislation enacted at the time it was issued, later amendments may impact on this Ruling. Any such changes will take precedence over the application of this Ruling and, to that extent, this Ruling will be superseded.

5. Taxpayers who are considering participating in the Project are advised to confirm with their taxation adviser that changes in the law have not affected this Product Ruling since it was issued.

### **Note to promoters and advisers**

6. Product Rulings were introduced for the purpose of providing certainty about tax consequences for participants in projects such as this. In keeping with that intention, the Tax Office suggests that promoters and advisers ensure that participants are fully informed of any legislative changes after the Ruling is issued.

### **Class of persons**

7. The class of persons to whom this Ruling applies is the persons who are more specifically identified in the Ruling part of this Product Ruling and who enter into the arrangement specified below on or after the date this Ruling is made. They will have a purpose of staying in the arrangement until it is completed (i.e., being a party to the relevant Agreements until their term expires) and deriving assessable income from this involvement. In this Ruling these persons are referred to as 'Growers'.

8. The class of persons to whom this Ruling applies does not include persons who intend to terminate their involvement in the arrangement prior to its completion or who otherwise do not intend to derive assessable income from it.

### **Qualifications**

9. The Commissioner rules on the precise arrangement identified in the Ruling. If the arrangement described in the Ruling is materially different from the arrangement that is actually carried out, the Ruling has no binding effect on the Commissioner. The Ruling will be withdrawn or modified.

10. A Product Ruling may only be reproduced in its entirety. Extracts may not be reproduced. As each Product Ruling is copyright, apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced by any process without prior written permission from the Commonwealth. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Manager, Legislative Services, AusInfo, GPO Box 1920, Canberra ACT 2601.

## Date of effect

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11. This Ruling applies prospectively from 26 June 2002, the date this Ruling is made. However, the Ruling does not apply to taxpayers to the extent that it conflicts with the terms of settlement of a dispute agreed to before the date of issue of the Ruling (see paragraphs 21 and 22 of Taxation Ruling TR 92/20).

12. If a taxpayer has a more favourable private ruling (which is legally binding), the taxpayer can rely on that private ruling if the income year to which it relates has ended or has commenced but not yet ended. However if the arrangement covered by the private ruling has not commenced, and the income year to which it relates has not yet commenced, this Ruling applies to the taxpayer to the extent of the inconsistency only (see Taxation Determination TD 93/34).

## Withdrawal

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13. This Product Ruling is withdrawn and ceases to have effect after 30 June 2005. The Ruling continues to apply, in respect of the tax law(s) ruled upon, to all persons within the specified class who enter into the arrangement specified below. Thus, the Ruling continues to apply to those persons, even following its withdrawal, who entered into the specified arrangement prior to withdrawal of the Ruling. This is subject to there being no change in the arrangement or in the person's involvement in the arrangement.

## Arrangement

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14. The arrangement that is the subject of this Ruling is specified below. This arrangement incorporates the following documents:

- Application for Product Ruling for the Heydon Park Ginseng Project dated 21 January 2002;
- Draft Product Disclosure Statement of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 received by the ATO on 18 June 2002;
- **Draft Constitution of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 between Heydon Park Ltd ('the Responsible Entity') and the Growers received by the ATO on 18 June 2002;**

- Draft Compliance Plan of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 received by the ATO on 30 April 2002;
- **Draft Management Agreement of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 between Heydon Park Ltd ('the Manager') and the Grower received by the ATO on 18 June 2002;**
- Ginseng Supply and Purchase Agreement of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 between the Manager and Panax Ginseng Wholesalers Pte Ltd ('the Processor') dated 1 June 2002;
- Agreement between Frank & Gabriel Gregory Casimaty ('Grantor') and Tasmanian Panax Ginseng Pty Ltd ('the Grantee') received by the ATO on 9 May 2002 under which the Grantor grants the Grantee an option to purchase property for the Project;
- Agreement to Lease between Tasmanian Panax Ginseng Pty Ltd ('Lessor') and the Manager dated 18 May 2002;
- Correspondence received by the ATO from the applicant's representative dated 28 March 2002, 30 April 2002, 1, 9, 16, 22, 23, 24, 27 and 28 May 2002 and 4, 5 and 7, 13, 17 and 18 June 2002.

**Note: certain information received from the applicant has been provided on a commercial-in-confidence basis and will not be disclosed or released under the Freedom of Information legislation.**

15. The documents highlighted are those that the Growers enter into. There are no other agreements, whether formal or informal, and whether or not legally enforceable, which a Grower, or an associate of the Grower will be a party to that are part of the arrangement to which this Ruling applies.

16. All Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) requirements are, or will be, complied with for the term of the agreements. The effect of the agreements may be summarised as follows.

### **Overview**

17. The arrangement is called Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 and is summarised as follows:

**PR 2002/97**

Location	414 Back Tea Tree Road Richmond in Southern Tasmania.
Type of business	Commercial cultivation of ginseng plants.
Number of hectares under cultivation	50 hectares
Name of development	Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1
Size of participation (module)	3.33 square metres
Minimum participation	10 modules
Number of plants per module	60 plants
The term of the Project	5 years
Nature of the Project	The establishment and maintenance of a ginseng plantation.
Initial Costs per participation	<p>Per 10 modules, if grower pays costs on the Settlement Date:</p> <p>Ginseng plants \$22; Occupation Fee \$33; Management Fee \$1,045.</p> <p>Per 10 modules, if grower pays by instalments:</p> <p>Ginseng plants \$22; Occupation Fee \$33; Management Fee \$1,045; Interest \$150.</p>
Initial costs per hectare	<p>\$330,000 for Growers who pay in full on application.</p> <p>\$375,000 for Growers who pay by instalments.</p>
Ongoing costs	Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fee and Harvesting and Processing Fee.
Expected Production	7.5 tonnes per hectare.
Minimum Subscription	20,000 modules, totalling \$2,200,000.

**The Project**

18. The Project involves establishing, planting, cultivating and harvesting ginseng plants and the sale of ginseng roots. The maximum number of modules on offer is 150,000 and the minimum number of modules required before the Project can commence is 20,000. The minimum number of modules an applicant can apply for is ten. Unless otherwise stated, all references to fees in this Product Ruling refer to the level of fees associated with ten ginseng modules.

19. Growers are invited to enter the Project by applying under a Product Disclosure Statement registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission. Each Grower shall complete an Application Form and Power of Attorney attached to a current Product Disclosure Statement. The Power of Attorney appoints the Manager to do everything necessary to execute the Management Agreement on behalf of the Growers.

20. The Project land is currently owned by the Grantor. Upon reaching minimum subscription, the Grantee will exercise the Option to purchase the property and the Grantor will enter into a contract of sale to transfer the property to the Grantee. The Grantee will then lease the land to the Manager who will, via the Management Agreement, grant a licence to each Grower to occupy an identifiable area of land, being approximately 3.33 square metres, called a 'module' for the purpose of growing ginseng for the duration of the Project. The Project is to terminate on 30 June 2007.

21. The fees payable on acceptance are in respect of the purchase of ginseng plants, the Occupation Fee and the Management Fee for the Initial Period, shadecloth expenses (including shadecloth structure), landcare expenses and irrigation expenses. The 'Initial Period' means the period beginning on the date of issue of each Participant's interest and ending 12 months from the date thereof.

22. In the Accrual Periods (as defined in paragraph 23) following the Initial Period the Growers are required to pay Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees and Harvesting and Processing Fees. Any Continuing Management Fees that have not been paid by the Grower shall accrue and bear interest at the rate of 17 per centum per annum calculated on quarterly rests. The Manager will take action for recovery of any amounts due. The Manager may deduct any unpaid Continuing Management Fees from the Grower's Business Income, being a Grower's proportional interest of Total Project Income. The Harvesting and Processing fee of 11% of the Total Project Sales will be retained by the Manager from the amounts due to the Growers.

23. An Accrual Period means either:

- the period from the expiration of the Initial Period up to and including the next following last day of June;
- each twelve monthly period ending on the last day of the month of June in each year during the term of the Project; or
- the period from and including the first day of July immediately prior to the date of termination of the Project until that date of termination.

24. For the minimum subscription of 10 modules the Grower has the option of paying the full amount of \$1,100 (consisting of initial management fee of \$1,045, seed purchase expense of \$22 and occupation fee of \$33) on the Settlement Date or accepting the instalment plan which allows for the payment of the Initial Management Fees over two years payable monthly in arrears with the first payment due and payable one month after the Settlement Date. If the Grower accepts the instalment plan, a further \$150 is payable which represents interest at 17% (instalment interest expense). Under the instalment plan the amount payable is \$1,250. This amount is payable as a deposit of \$330 on application and 23 consecutive monthly instalments of \$40.

25. The deposit of \$330 is comprised of seed purchase expense of \$22, occupation fee of \$33 and grove establishment and management fee of \$275. This grove establishment and management fee of \$275 is in turn comprised of initial management expenses of \$168, plant establishment expenses of \$49 and capital expenses of \$58.

26. The monthly instalment amounts of \$40 are comprised of management costs of \$26.50 (being \$20.50 for management expenses and \$6 for plant establishment expenses), capital expenses of \$7 and instalment interest expense of \$6.50.

27. The Manager is authorised to pool the ginseng roots harvested from each Ginseng Module. Proceeds of pooled sales, after deduction of all amounts as provided under the Management Agreement, will be paid into the Scheme Bank Account for crediting to each Grower who has contributed to the pool. The amount of each Grower's share is calculated on a proportional basis determined by the number of Ginseng Modules held in the Project in comparison to all the Ginseng Modules issued for the Project.

28. The Manager has entered into a presale agreement with the Processor under which the Processor agrees to purchase all of the ginseng roots produced, provided the roots conform to a specified quality, at a fixed price of \$186.75 per kilogram.

**Constitution**

29. The primary object of the Project is for Growers to conduct the business of planting, growing and cultivation of ginseng plants for the production of ginseng roots, and the harvesting, marketing and sale of the ginseng products produced therefrom.

30. The Project will commence when the minimum subscription is reached. Application Forms will not be accepted until the minimum subscription is reached. Each Grower on acceptance of his or her Application Form by the Responsible Entity must enter into the Management Agreement.

31. The Responsible Entity must on receipt of application monies and the completed and signed Application Form, pay those monies as soon as practicable after their receipt, but not later than the close of business on the next working day after the day of receipt, into the Applications Bank Account.

32. Upon acceptance of an Application Form, the Responsible Entity shall transfer relevant application monies from the Applications Bank Account to the Scheme Bank Account.

33. A Member's Business Income received with respect to the Scheme must be paid by the Responsible Entity into the Scheme Bank Account.

34. The Responsible Entity shall be entitled to pay all monies required to be paid by or for and on behalf of the Members pursuant to this Constitution or the Management Agreement in accordance with the relevant provisions out of the Scheme Bank Account including without limitation, the Initial and Continuing Management Fees, the Occupation Fees, the Harvest and Processing Fee, GST and any other monies payable by a Member pursuant to the Constitution or the Management Agreement.

35. The Constitution lists all fees payable by Growers being, seed fees (clause 4.2), Initial Management Fees (clause 4.3), Continuing Management Fees (clause 4.4), Occupation Fees (clause 4.5) and the Harvest and Processing Fee (clause 4.6).

**Management Agreement**

36. Under this Agreement the Grower appoints the Manager to manage the Grower's business and the Manager hereby agrees to so act.

37. The Manager will provide management services to the Growers as detailed at clause 1.1 of the Agreement.

38. The Initial Management Fee is comprised of the following:

- shadecloth expenses of \$101;
- irrigation expenses of \$46;
- landcare expenses of \$72;
- ginseng beds and establishment expenses \$186; and
- all other expenditure of \$640.

39. The Manager grants to the Grower the exclusive right to carry out the Grower's Business upon the Ginseng Module and to do all other things upon the Ginseng Module that may be necessary to be carried out upon the Ginseng Module pursuant to this Agreement. The term of this licence shall be for the same term as the Grower's business.

40. The Grower, his servants, agents and contractors shall have the right of ingress and egress to and from the Ginseng Module and the use of any common parts of the Land at all reasonable times as are necessary for the Grower to conduct the Grower's Business. The Manager shall have the right of entry upon the Ginseng Module to carry out the management services on behalf of the Grower as provided herein.

41. The Manager is authorised by the Grower to pool the ginseng roots harvested from the Ginseng Module with ginseng roots from Ginseng Modules of other Growers in the Project.

42. Where the ginseng roots are pooled, the sale proceeds therefrom (after deduction of all amounts to be deducted by the Manager as provided in the Scheme Constitution or the Management Agreement) shall form part of the Total Project Income.

43. The Grower shall be entitled to the Grower's Business Income which shall be paid to the Grower in accordance with the Scheme Constitution.

## **Fees Payable by the Grower**

44. For Growers who pay in full on application:

### *Initial Management Fee*

- \$1045 payable on Settlement Date.

For Growers who pay by instalments:

### *Initial Management Fee*

- \$330 payable on the Settlement Date;
- The balance by 23 equal monthly instalments of \$40 commencing one month after the initial payment.

For all Growers:

*Seed Fees*

- \$22 payable on Settlement Date.

*Continuing Management Fees*

- For the first Accrual Period, \$9.20 per 10 modules per month or part thereof;
- For each succeeding Accrual Period, the amount which is the greater of either, \$110 adjusted for the CPI or the amount of the Continuing Management Fee of the prior Accrual Period increased by 3%.

*Occupation Fees*

- For the Initial Period, \$33 payable on the Settlement Date;
- For the first Accrual Period, \$2.80 for each month payable in advance;
- For each succeeding Accrual Period, the amount which is the greater of, either \$33 adjusted for CPI or the amount of the Occupation Fee for the prior Accrual Period increased by 3%.

*Harvesting and Processing Fee*

- An amount equal to 11% of the Members Business Income.

**Finance**

45. Growers can either fund their investment in the Project themselves or borrow from an independent lender.

46. This Ruling does not apply if the finance arrangement entered into by the Grower includes or has any of the following features:

- there are split loan features of a type referred to in Taxation Ruling TR 98/22;
- there are indemnity arrangements or other collateral agreements in relation to the loan designed to limit the borrower's risk;
- 'additional benefits' are or will be granted to the borrowers for the purpose of section 82KL or the funding arrangements transform the Project into a 'scheme' to which Part IVA may apply;
- the loan or rate of interest is non-arm's length;

- repayments of the principal and payments of interest are linked to the derivation of income from the Project;
- the funds borrowed, or any part of them, will not be available for the conduct of the Project but will be transferred (by any mechanism, directly or indirectly) back to the lender or any associate of the lender;
- lenders do not have the capacity under the loan agreement, or a genuine intention, to take legal action against defaulting borrowers; or
- entities associated with the Project are involved or become involved in the provision of finance to Growers for the Project.

## Ruling

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### Application of this Ruling

47. This Ruling applies only to Growers who are accepted to participate in the Project and who have executed a Management Agreement during the year ended 30 June 2002 or the year ended 30 June 2003. The Grower's participation in the Project must constitute the carrying on of a business of primary production. Each Grower must have acquired the minimum of ten modules in the Project.

### Minimum subscription

48. A Grower is not eligible to claim any tax deductions until the Grower's application to enter the Project is accepted and the Project has commenced. Under the terms of the product disclosure statement, a Grower's application will not be accepted and the Project will not proceed until the minimum subscription of 20,000 interests is achieved.

### The Simplified Tax System ('STS')

#### Division 328

49. For a Grower participating in the Project, the recognition of income and the timing of tax deductions is different depending on whether the Grower is an 'STS taxpayer'. To be an 'STS taxpayer' a Grower:

- must be eligible to be an 'STS taxpayer'; and
- must have elected to be an 'STS taxpayer'.

**Qualification**

50. This Product Ruling assumes that a Grower who is an 'STS taxpayer' is so for the income year in which their participation in the Project commences. A Grower may become an 'STS taxpayer' at a later point in time. Also, a Grower who is an 'STS taxpayer' may choose to stop being an 'STS taxpayer', or may cease to be eligible to be an 'STS taxpayer', during the term of the Project. These are contingencies relating to the circumstances of individual Growers that cannot be accommodated in this Ruling. Such Growers can ask for a private ruling on how the taxation legislation applies to them.

**Prepaid fees**

51. The Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense incurred by Growers who are accepted into this Project are subject to the prepayment rules in sections 82KZME and 82KZMF. In this context, a prepayment refers to advance expenditure incurred by a Grower in return for the doing of a thing that will not be wholly done in the year in which the expenditure is incurred. Where a Grower prepays expenditure that would otherwise be a general deduction under section 8-1 of the ITAA 1997 in the expenditure year, the Grower must apportion the prepayment over the period the prepayment covers unless it is 'excluded expenditure' (see Note (ii) below).

52. Subsection 82KZMF(1) provides the formula for determining how much of the prepaid expenditure a Grower can deduct for each income year. In that formula, which is shown below, the 'eligible service period' means the period during which the thing under the agreement is to be done. The eligible service period begins on the day on which the thing under the agreement commences to be done or on the day on which the expenditure is incurred, whichever is the later, and ends on the last day on which the thing under the agreement ceases to be done, up to a maximum of 10 years.

$$\text{Expenditure X } \frac{\text{Number of days of eligible service period in the year of income}}{\text{Total number of days of eligible service period}}$$

53. In this Project, the tax deductions allowable for Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense must be calculated by applying the above formula to the amount incurred each year by the Grower

**Tax outcomes for Growers who are not ‘STS taxpayers’****Assessable Income****Section 6-5**

54. That part of the gross sales proceeds from the Project attributable to the Grower’s produce, less any GST payable on those proceeds (section 17-5), will be assessable income of the Grower under section 6-5.

55. The Grower recognises ordinary income from carrying on the business of ginseng cultivation at the time that income is derived.

**Deductions for Initial Management Fee, Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees, Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense and Instalment Interest Expense****Section 8-1**

56. A Grower who acquires 10 modules and is accepted into the Project on or before 30 June 2002 and is not an ‘STS taxpayer’ may claim tax deductions for the following revenue expenses. For Growers who acquire additional modules, the deduction allowable is increased by 1/10th for each additional module acquired.

<b>Fee Type</b>	<b>ITAA19 97 Section</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2002</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2003</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2004</b>
Initial Management Fee	8-1	\$640 – See Notes (i) & (ii) below	Nil	Nil
Continuing Management Fees	8-1	Nil	Manager to advise – See Notes (i) & (iii) below	Manager to advise – See Notes (i) & (iv) below
Occupation Fees	8-1	\$33 – See Notes (i) & (ii) below	Manager to advise – See Notes (i) & (iii) below	Manager to advise – See Notes (i) & (iv) below
Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense	8-1	\$208 – See Notes (i) and (ii) below	Nil	Nil
Instalment Interest Expense	8-1	Where applicable \$150 – See Notes (v) below	Nil	Nil

**Notes:**

- (i) If the Grower is registered or required to be registered for GST, amounts of outgoing would need to be adjusted as relevant for GST (e.g., input tax credits): Division 27. See example 1 at paragraph 122.
- (ii) Although the Management Agreement requires the Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense (comprising seed purchase expense of \$22 and ginseng beds and establishment expenses of \$186) to be prepaid, for a Grower who acquires the minimum allocation, the amount of the prepaid Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense are less than \$1,000. For the purposes of this Project, an amount of less than \$1,000 is 'excluded expenditure'. 'Excluded expenditure' is an 'exception' to the prepayment rules and, for a Grower who is not an 'STS taxpayer', is deductible in full in the year in which it is incurred (see Example 3 at paragraph 124). However, where a Grower acquires more than the minimum allocation in the Project, i.e., more than 10 modules, the amount of the Grower's prepaid Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense may be \$1,000 or more. In this situation the prepaid Initial Management Fee Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense are **NOT** deductible in full in the year incurred. The deduction for each year's fees must be determined using the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1) (see paragraph 52). The Manager will inform Growers of the number of days in the 'eligible service period' in the first expenditure year. This figure is necessary to calculate the deduction allowable for the fees incurred. (See Example 2 at paragraph 123).
- (iii) The deductions for the Continuing Management Fee and the Occupation Fee for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 depends upon the date of entry of Growers into the Project. The Manager will inform Growers of the number of days in that income year that the Manager performed ongoing management services. This figure is necessary to calculate the deduction allowable for the fees incurred.

- (iv) The deduction for the Continuing Management Fee and the Occupation Fee for the Year Ended 30 June 2004 will be determined by the Manager and the Manager will inform Growers of the amount of the deduction.
- (v) If a Grower elects to pay the Initial Management Fee by instalments, the interest expense is deductible in full. However, where a Grower acquires more than the minimum allocation in the Project, reference should be made to Note (ii) above.

57. Where Growers enter the Project on or after 1 July 2002 the deductions available for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 are those shown above for the Year Ended 30 June 2002.

### **Deductions for capital expenditure**

#### **Division 40**

58. A Grower who acquires 10 modules and who is accepted into the Project on or before 30 June 2002 and is not an 'STS taxpayer' will also be entitled to tax deductions relating to, water facilities (e.g., irrigation), a 'landcare operation', and shadecloth. All deductions shown in the following Table are determined under Division 40. For Growers who acquire additional modules, the deduction allowable is increased by 1/10<sup>th</sup> for each additional module acquired.

<b>Fee type</b>	<b>ITAA 1997 section</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2002</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2003</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2004</b>
Shadecloth	40-25	Must be calculated - See Notes (vi) & (vii) below	Must be calculated - See Notes (vi) & (vii) below	Must be calculated - See Notes (vi) & (vii) below
Water facility (e.g., irrigation, dam, bore, etc.)	40-515	\$16 - see Notes (vi) & (viii) below	\$15 - see Notes (vi) & (viii) below	\$15 - see Notes (vi) & (viii) below
Landcare operations	40-630	\$72 - see Notes (vi) & (ix) below	Nil	Nil

#### **Notes:**

- (vi) If the Grower is registered or required to be registered for GST, amounts of capital expenditure would need to

be adjusted as relevant for GST (e.g., input tax credits): Division 27. See example 1 at paragraph 122.

- (vii) Shadecloth is a 'depreciating asset' to which Division 40 applies. Each Grower holds an interest in the shadecloth which is a 'low-cost asset' and can be allocated to a 'low-value pool'. Once any 'low-cost asset' of a Grower is allocated to a 'low-value pool', all other 'low-cost assets' the Grower start to 'hold' in that year or a later year must be allocated to that pool. If the Grower has already allocated an asset to a 'low-value pool', the shadecloth would also have to be allocated to that pool. Otherwise, the Grower must decide whether to create a 'low-value pool'. If the shadecloth is allocated to a 'low-value pool', the capital expenditure on the shadecloth will be deducted under the diminishing value methodology of the pool based on a rate of 18.75% in the year the shadecloth is first used and a rate of 37.5% in subsequent years (section 40-440). If the shadecloth is not allocated to a 'low-value pool', they can be written off based on the 'effective life' of the shadecloth. As there has been no determination of the 'effective life' of shadecloth by the Commissioner, Growers must self-assess an 'effective life'. Shadecloth is not installed until after the plants are planted and no deduction for the decline in value is available until this installation occurs. The Manager will advise Growers of that date to enable them to calculate the deduction.
- (viii) Any irrigation system, dam or bore is a 'water facility' as defined in subsection 40-520(1), being used primarily and principally for the purpose of conserving or conveying water. A deduction is available under Subdivision 40-F, paragraph 40-515(1)(a). This deduction is equal to one third of the capital expenditure incurred by each Grower on the installation of the 'water facility' in the year in which it is incurred and one third in each of the next 2 years of income (section 40-540).
- (ix) Any capital expenditure incurred for a 'landcare operation' (as defined in section 40-635) is fully deductible in the year it is incurred under Subdivision 40-G, section 40-630.

59. Where Growers enter the Project on or after 1 July 2002 the deductions available for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 are those shown above for the Year Ended 30 June 2002.

## **Tax outcomes for Growers who are ‘STS taxpayers’**

### **Assessable Income**

#### **Section 6-5**

60. That part of the gross sales proceeds from the Project attributable to the Grower’s produce, less any GST payable on those proceeds (section 17-5), will be assessable income of the Grower under section 6-5.

61. The Grower recognises ordinary income from carrying on the business of ginseng cultivation at the time the income is received (paragraph 328-105(1)(a)).

### **Deductions for Initial Management Fee, Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees, Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense and Instalment Interest Expense**

#### **Section 8-1 and section 328-105**

62. A Grower who is an ‘STS taxpayer’ is only able to claim a deduction for an expense, otherwise deductible under section 8-1, to the extent that the expense is paid or has been paid for the Grower. Therefore, in particular, where a Grower who is accepted into the Project on or before 30 June 2002 and is an ‘STS taxpayer’ acquires the minimum allocation of 10 modules and pays by instalments, tax deductions for the following revenue expenses may only be claimed in each income year as shown below. For Growers who acquire additional modules, the deduction allowable is increased by 1/10<sup>th</sup> for each additional module acquired.

Fee Type	ITAA 1997 Sections	Year ended 30 June 2002	Year ended 30 June 2003	Year ended 30 June 2004
Initial Management Fee (Non Instalment Payers)	8-1 & 328-105	\$640 – See Notes (x) & (xi) below		
Initial Management Fee (Instalment Payers)	8-1 & 328-105	Amounts must be calculated – See Notes (x), (xi) & (xii) below	Amounts must be calculated – See Notes (x),(xi) & (xii) below	Amounts must be calculated – See Notes (xi), (xi) & (xii) below
Continuing Management Fees	8-1 & 328-105	Nil	Manager to advise – See Notes (x) & (xiii) below	Manager to advise – See Notes (x) & (xiv) below
Occupation Fees	8-1 & 328-105	\$33 - see Notes (xi) & (xii) below	Manager to advise – see Notes (x) & (xiii) below	Manager to advise - see Notes (x) & (xiv) below
Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense (Non Instalment Payers)	8-1 & 328-105	\$208 – See Notes (x) and (xii) below	Nil	Nil
Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense (Instalment Payers)	8-1 & 328-105	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xv) below	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xv) below	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xv) below
Instalment Interest Expense	8-1 & 328-105	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xvi) below	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xvi) below	Amounts must be calculated – see Note (xvi) below

**Notes:**

- (x) If the Grower is registered or required to be registered for GST, amounts of outgoing would need to be

adjusted as relevant for GST (e.g., input tax credits):  
Division 27. See Example 1 at paragraph 122.

- (xi) Although the Management Agreement requires the Initial Management Fee Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense to be prepaid, for a Grower who acquires the minimum allocation of 10 modules, the amount of the prepaid Initial Management Fee Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense are less than \$1,000. For the purposes of this Project, an amount of less than \$1,000 is 'excluded expenditure'. 'Excluded expenditure' is an 'exception' to the prepayment rules and, for a Grower who is an 'STS taxpayer', is deductible in full in the year in which it is incurred and paid (see Example 3 at paragraph 124). However, where a Grower acquires more than the minimum allocation in the Project, the amount of the Grower's prepaid Initial Management Fee Occupation Fee and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense may be \$1,000 or more. In this situation the prepaid Initial Management Fee Occupation and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense Fees are NOT deductible in full in the year in which they are paid by, or on behalf of the STS taxpayer. The deduction for each year's fees must be determined using the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1) (see paragraph 52). The Manager will inform Growers of the number of days in the 'eligible service period' in the first expenditure year. This figure is necessary to calculate the deduction allowable for the fees incurred. (See Example 2 at paragraph 123).
- (xii) Growers who choose to use the instalment plan will be entitled to a deduction firstly for that portion of the Initial Management Fee paid on the Settlement Date. This amount totals \$168. In addition, such Growers will be entitled to a further deduction of \$20.50 in relation to the Initial Management Fee for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in the Initial Period. For the Accrual Periods following the Initial Period, such Growers will be entitled to a deduction of \$20.50 in relation to the Initial Management Fee for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in those Accrual Periods.
- (xiii) The deductions for the Continuing Management Fee and the Occupation Fee for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 depends upon the date of entry of

Growers into the Project. The Manager will inform Growers of the number of days in that income year that the Manager performed ongoing management services. This figure is necessary to calculate the deduction allowable for the fees incurred.

- (xiv) The deduction for the Continuing Management Fee and the Occupation Fee for the Year Ended 30 June 2004 will be determined by the Manager and the Manager will inform Growers of the amount of the deduction.
- (xv) Growers who choose to use the instalment plan will be entitled to a deduction firstly for that portion of the Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense paid on the Settlement Date. This amount totals \$71 (seed purchase expense of \$22 and establishment costs of \$49). In addition, such Growers will be entitled to a further deduction of \$6 in relation to the Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in the Initial Period. For the Accrual Periods following the Initial Period, such Growers will be entitled to a deduction of \$6 in relation to the Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in those Accrual Periods.
- (xvi) Each of the monthly instalments include an equal amount of interest instalment expense of \$6.50. The deduction available for this interest instalment expense in the Initial Period will be \$6.50 for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in the Initial Period. The deduction available in the Accrual Periods following the Initial Period will be \$6.50 for each monthly instalment of \$40 paid in those Accrual Periods.

63. Where Growers enter the Project on or after 1 July 2002 the deductions available for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 are those shown above for the Year Ended 30 June 2002.

### **Deductions for capital expenditure**

#### **Subdivision 328-D and Subdivisions 40-F and 40-G**

64. A Grower who is an 'STS taxpayer' will also be entitled to tax deductions relating to water facilities (e.g., irrigation), a 'landcare operation', and shadecloth. Deductions relating to the 'cost' of shadecloth must be determined under Division 328. An 'STS taxpayer' may claim deductions in relation to water facilities under Subdivision 40-F and in relation to a 'landcare operation' under Subdivision 40-G. If the 'water facility' or 'landcare operation'

expenditure is on a 'depreciating asset' used to carry on the business, they may choose to claim deductions under Division 328.

65. The deductions shown in the following Table assume, for representative purposes only, that a Grower has either chosen to or can only claim deductions for expenditure on water facilities or a 'landcare operation' under Subdivisions 40-F or 40-G and not under Division 328. If the expenditure has been incurred on 'depreciating assets' and is claimed under Division 328, the deduction is determined as discussed in Note (xix) below.

66. Under Division 328, if the 'cost' of a 'depreciating asset' at the end of the income year is less than \$1000 (a 'low-cost asset'), it can be claimed as an immediate deduction when first used or 'installed ready for use'. This is so provided the Grower is an 'STS taxpayer' for the income year in which it starts to 'hold' the asset and the income year in which it first uses the asset or has it 'installed ready for use' to produce assessable income.

67. A Grower who is accepted into the Project on or before 30 June 2002 and acquires 10 modules and is an 'STS taxpayer' will also be entitled to the following tax deductions. For Growers who acquire additional modules, the deduction allowable is increased by 1/10<sup>th</sup> for each additional module acquired.

<b>Fee type</b>	<b>ITAA 1997 section</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2002</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2003</b>	<b>Year ended 30 June 2004</b>
Shadecloth	328-180	Amounts must be calculated – See Notes (xvii) & (xviii) below		
Water facility (e.g. irrigation, dam, bore, etc)	40-515	Amounts must be calculated – see Notes (xvii) & (xix) below	Amounts must be calculated – see Notes (xvii) & (xix) below	Amounts must be calculated - see Notes (xvii) & (xix) below
Landcare operations	40-630	\$72 - see Notes (xvii) & (xx) below		

**Notes:**

- (xvii) If the Grower is registered or required to be registered for GST, amounts of capital expenditure would need to be adjusted as relevant for GST (e.g., input tax credits):  
Division 27: See example 1 at paragraph 122.

- (xviii) Shadecloth is a ‘depreciating asset’ to which Division 40 applies. Each Grower holds an interest in the shadecloth which is a ‘low-cost asset’ as defined in subsection 40-425(2). It cannot be allocated to the ‘general STS pool’ (section 328-180). A deduction equal to the amount of the Grower’s expenditure for the shadecloth is available in the income year in which they are used or ‘installed ready for use’. This is so provided the Grower is an ‘STS taxpayer’ for the income year in which it starts to ‘hold’ the asset and the income year in which it first uses the asset or has it ‘installed ready for use’ to produce assessable income. Shadecloth is not installed until after the ginseng seeds are planted. The Manager will advise when that has occurred.
- (xix) Any irrigation system, dam or bore is a ‘water facility’ as defined in subsection 40-520(1), being used primarily and principally for the purpose of conserving or conveying water. If the expenditure is on a ‘depreciating asset’ (the underlying asset), the Grower may choose to claim a deduction under either Division 328 or Subdivision 40-F. For the purposes of Division 328, each Grower’s interest in the underlying asset is itself deemed to be a ‘depreciating asset’. If the ‘cost’ apportionable to that deemed ‘depreciating asset’ is less than \$1000, the deemed asset is treated as a ‘low-cost asset’ and that amount is deductible in full when the underlying asset is first used or ‘held’ ready for use. This is so provided the Grower is an ‘STS taxpayer’ for the income year in which it starts to ‘hold’ the asset and the income year in which it first uses the asset or has it ‘installed ready for use’ to produce assessable income. If the deemed asset is not treated as a ‘low-cost asset’, the tax deduction allowable in the year ended 30 June 2002 is determined by multiplying its ‘cost’ by half the relevant STS pool rate. At the end of the year, it is allocated to the relevant STS pool and in subsequent years the full pool rate will apply. If the expenditure is not on a ‘depreciating asset’, or if they choose to use Subdivision 40-F, Growers must claim deductions under Subdivision 40-F, paragraph 40-515(1)(a). This deduction is equal to one third of the capital expenditure incurred by each Grower on the installation of the ‘water facility’ in the year in which it is incurred and one third in each of the next 2 years of income (section 40-540).

- (xx) Any capital expenditure incurred for a 'landcare operation' (as defined in section 40-635) is fully deductible in the year it is incurred under Subdivision 40-G, section 40-630. If the expenditure is on a 'depreciating asset' (the underlying asset), the Grower may choose to claim a deduction under either Division 328 or Subdivision 40-G (although expenditure on some items of plant can only be deducted under Division 328). For the purposes of Division 328, each Grower's interest in the underlying asset is itself deemed to be a 'depreciating asset'. If the 'cost' apportionable to that deemed 'depreciating asset' is less than \$1000, the deemed asset is treated as a 'low-cost asset' and that amount is deductible in full when the underlying asset is first used or 'held' ready for use. This is so provided the Grower is an 'STS taxpayer' for the income year in which it starts to 'hold' the asset and the income year in which it first uses the asset or has it 'installed ready for use' to produce assessable income. If the deemed asset is not treated as a 'low-cost asset', the tax deduction allowable is determined by multiplying its 'cost' by half the relevant STS pool rate. At the end of the year, it is allocated to the relevant STS pool and in subsequent years, the full pool rate will apply. If the expenditure is not on a 'depreciating asset', the expenditure is fully deductible under Subdivision 40-G.

68. Where Growers enter the Project on or after 1 July 2002 the deductions available for the Year Ended 30 June 2003 are those shown above for the Year Ended 30 June 2002.

## **Tax outcomes that apply to all Growers**

### **Interest**

69. The deductibility or otherwise of interest incurred by Growers who finance their participation in the Project through a loan facility with a bank or other financier is outside the scope of this Ruling. However all Growers who borrow funds in order to participate in the Project, should read the discussion of the prepayment rules in paragraphs 92 to 102 (below) as those rules may be applicable if interest is prepaid. Subject to the 'excluded expenditure' exception, the prepayment rules apply whether the prepayment is required under the relevant loan agreement or is at the Grower's choice.

**Division 35 – Deferral of losses from non-commercial business activities****Section 35-55 – Commissioner’s discretion**

70. For a Grower who is an individual and who enters the Project during the years ended 30 June 2002 and 30 June 2003 the rule in section 35-10 may apply to the business activity comprised by their involvement in this Project. Under paragraph 35-55(1)(b), for the Growers who enter the Project during the year ended 30 June 2002, the Commissioner will decide that for the income years ended 30 June 2002 to 30 June 2006 the rule in section 35-10 does not apply to this activity provided that the Project is carried out in the manner described in this Ruling. For the Growers who enter the Project during the year ended 30 June 2003 the Commissioner will decide that for the income years ending 30 June 2003 to 30 June 2006 the rule in section 35-10 does not apply to this activity provided that the Project is carried out in the manner described in this Ruling.

71. This exercise of the discretion in subsection 35-55(1) will not be required where, for any year in question:

- the ‘exception’ in subsection 35-10(4) applies (see paragraph 109 in the Explanations part of this ruling, below);
- a Grower’s business activity satisfies one of the tests in sections 35-30, 35-35, 35-40 or 35-45; or
- a Grower’s business activity produces assessable income for an income year greater than the deductions attributable to it for that year (apart from the operation of subsection 35-10(2)).

72. Where, the ‘exception’ in subsection 35-10(4) applies, the Grower’s business activity satisfies one of the tests, or the discretion in subsection 35-55(1) is exercised, section 35-10 will not apply. This means that a Grower will not be required to defer any excess of deductions attributable to their business activity in excess of any assessable income from that activity, i.e., any ‘loss’ from that activity, to a later year. Instead, this ‘loss’ can be offset against other assessable income for the year in which it arises.

73. Growers are reminded of the important statement made on Page 1 of this Product Ruling. Therefore, Growers should not see the Commissioner’s decision to exercise the discretion in paragraph 35-55(1)(b) as an indication that the Tax Office sanctions or guarantees the Project or the product to be commercially viable. An assessment of the Project or the product from this perspective has not been made.

**Section 82KL and Part IVA**

74. For a Grower who participates in the Project and incurs expenditure as required by the Management Agreement the following provisions of the ITAA 1936 have application as indicated:

- section 82KL does not apply to deny the deductions otherwise allowable; and
- the relevant provisions in Part IVA will not be applied to cancel a tax benefit obtained under a tax law dealt with in this Ruling.

**Explanations**

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**Is the Grower carrying on a business?**

75. For the amounts set out in the Tables above to constitute allowable deductions the Grower's ginseng cultivation activities as a participant in the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 must amount to the carrying on of a business of primary production. These ginseng cultivation activities will fall within the definitions of 'horticulture' and 'commercial horticulture' in section 40-535 of the ITAA 1997.

76. For schemes such as that of the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1, Taxation Ruling TR 2000/8 sets out in paragraph 89 the circumstances in which the Grower's activities can constitute the carrying on of a business. As Taxation Ruling TR 2000/8 sets out, these circumstances have been established in court decisions such as *FCT v. Lau* (1984) 16ATR 55; 84 ATC 4929.

77. Generally, a Grower will be carrying on a business of ginseng cultivation, and hence primary production, if:

- the Grower has an identifiable interest (by lease or by licence) in the land on which the Grower's plants are established;
- the Grower has a right to harvest and sell the ginseng roots each year from those plants;
- the ginseng cultivation activities are carried out on the Grower's behalf;
- the ginseng cultivation activities of the Grower are typical of those associated with a ginseng cultivation business; and
- the weight and influence of general indicators point to the carrying on of a business.

78. In this Project, each Grower enters into a Management Agreement.

79. Under the Management Agreement each individual Grower will have rights over a specific and identifiable area of land. The Management Agreement provides the Grower with an ongoing interest in the specific plants on the licenced area for the term of the Project. Under the licence the Grower must use the land in question for the purpose of carrying out ginseng cultivation activities and for no other purpose. The licence allows the Manager to come onto the land to carry out its obligations under the Management Agreement.

80. Under the Management Agreement the Manager is engaged by the Grower to establish and maintain a module on the Grower's identifiable area of land during the term of the Project.

81. In establishing the module, the Grower engages the Manager to purchase and install shadecloth and water facilities (e.g., irrigation), to carry out 'landcare operation' and to acquire and plant ginseng seeds on the Grower's module. During the term of the Project, these assets will be used wholly to carry out the Grower's ginseng cultivation activities. The Manager is also engaged to harvest and sell, on the Grower's behalf, the ginseng roots grown on the Grower's module.

82. The general indicators of a business, as used by the Courts, are described in Taxation Ruling TR 97/11. Positive findings can be made from the Project's description for all the indicators.

83. The activities that will be regularly carried out during the term of the Project demonstrate a significant commercial purpose. Based on reasonable projections, a Grower in the Project will derive assessable income from the sale of its ginseng roots that will return a before-tax profit, i.e. a profit in cash terms that does not depend in its calculation on the fees in question being allowed as a deduction.

84. The pooling of ginseng roots grown on the Grower's module with the ginseng roots of other Growers is consistent with general ginseng cultivation practices. Each Grower's proportionate share of the sale proceeds of the pooled ginseng roots will reflect the proportion of the ginseng roots contributed from their module.

85. The Manager's services and the installation of assets on the Grower's behalf are also consistent with general ginseng cultivation practices. The assets are of the type ordinarily used in carrying on a business of ginseng cultivation. While the size of a module is relatively small, it is of a size and scale to allow it to be commercially viable (see Taxation Ruling IT 360).

86. The Grower's degree of control over the Manager as evidenced by the Management Agreement, and supplemented by the Corporations Act, is sufficient. During the term of the Project, the

Manager will provide the Grower with regular progress reports on the Grower's module and the activities carried out on the Grower's behalf. Growers are able to terminate arrangements with the Manager in certain instances, such as cases of default or neglect.

87. The ginseng cultivation activities, and hence the fees associated with their procurement, are consistent with an intention to commence regular activities that have an 'air of permanence' about them. For the purposes of this Ruling, the Growers' ginseng cultivation activities in the Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 will constitute the carrying on of a business.

## **The Simplified Tax System**

### **Division 328**

88. Subdivision 328-F sets out the eligibility requirements that a Grower must satisfy in order to enter the STS and Subdivision 328-G sets out the rules for entering and leaving the STS.

89. The question of whether a Grower is eligible to be an 'STS taxpayer' is outside the scope of this Product Ruling. Therefore, any Grower who relies on those parts of this Ruling that refer to the STS will be assumed to have correctly determined whether or not they are eligible to be an 'STS taxpayer'.

## **Deductibility of Initial Management Fee, Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees, Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense and Instalment Interest Expense**

### **Section 8-1**

90. Consideration of whether the Initial Management Fee, Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees, Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense and Instalment Interest Expense are deductible under section 8-1 begins with the first limb of the section. This view proceeds on the following basis:

- the outgoing in question must have a sufficient connection with the operations or activities that directly gain or produce the taxpayer's assessable income;
- the outgoings are not deductible under the second limb if they are incurred when the business has not commenced; and
- where all that happens in a year of income is that a taxpayer is contractually committed to a venture that may not turn out to be a business, there can be doubt about whether the relevant business has commenced, and hence, whether the second limb applies. However,

that does not preclude the application of the first limb in determining whether the outgoing in question has a sufficient connection with activities to produce assessable income.

91. The Initial Management Fee, Continuing Management Fees, Occupation Fees, Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense and Instalment Interest Expense associated with the ginseng cultivation activities will relate to the gaining of income from the Grower's business of ginseng cultivation (see above), and hence have a sufficient connection to the operations by which income (from the regular sale of ginseng roots) is to be gained from this business. They will thus be deductible under the first limb of section 8-1. Further, no 'non-income producing' purpose in incurring the fee is identifiable from the arrangement. The fee appears to be reasonable. There is no capital component of the Initial Management Fee. The tests of deductibility under the first limb of section 8-1 are met. The exclusions do not apply.

### **Prepayment provisions**

#### **Sections 82KZL to 82KZMF**

92. The prepayment provisions contained in Subdivision H of Division 3 of Part III of the ITAA 1936 affect the timing of deductions for certain prepaid expenditure. These provisions apply to certain expenditure incurred under an agreement in return for the doing of a thing under the agreement (e.g., the performance of management services or the leasing of land) that will not be wholly done within the same year of income as the year in which the expenditure is incurred. If expenditure is incurred to cover the provision of services to be provided within the same year, then it is not expenditure to which the prepayment rules apply.

93. For this Project, only section 82KZL (an interpretive provision) and sections 82KZME and 82KZMF are relevant. Where the requirements of sections 82KZME and 82KZMF are met, taxpayers determine deductions for prepaid expenditure under section 82KZMF using the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1). These provisions also apply to 'STS taxpayers' because there is no specific exclusion contained in section 82KZME that excludes them from the operation of section 82KZMF.

#### *Sections 82KZME and 82KZMF*

94. Where the requirements of subsections 82KZME(2) and (3) are met, the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1) (see below) will apply to apportion expenditure that is otherwise deductible under section 8-1

of the ITAA 1997. The requirements of subsection 82KZME(2) will be met if expenditure is incurred by a taxpayer in return for the doing of a thing that is not to be wholly done within the year the expenditure is made. The year in which such expenditure is incurred is called the 'expenditure year' (subsection 82KZME(1)).

95. The requirements of subsection 82KZME(3) will be met where the agreement (or arrangement) has the following characteristics:

- the taxpayer's allowable deductions under the agreement for the 'expenditure year' exceed any assessable income attributable to the agreement for that year;
- the taxpayer does not have effective day to day control over the operation of the agreement. That is, the significant aspects of the arrangement are managed by someone other than the taxpayer; and
- either :
  - (a) there is more than one participant in the agreement in the same capacity as the taxpayer; or
  - (b) the person who promotes, arranges or manages the agreement (or an associate of that person) promotes similar agreements for other taxpayers.

96. There are a number of exceptions to these rules, but for Growers participating in this Project, only the 'excluded expenditure' exception in subsection 82KZME(7) is relevant. 'Excluded expenditure' is defined in subsection 82KZL(1). However, for the purposes of Growers in this Project, 'excluded expenditure' is prepaid expenditure incurred under the arrangement that is less than \$1,000. Such expenditure is immediately deductible.

97. Where the requirements of section 82KZME are met, section 82KZMF applies to apportion relevant prepaid expenditure.

Section 82KZMF uses the formula below, to apportion prepaid expenditure and allow a deduction over the period that the benefits are provided.

$$\text{Expenditure X} = \frac{\text{Number of days of eligible service period in the year of income}}{\text{Total number of days of eligible service period}}$$

98. In the formula 'eligible service period' (defined in subsection 82KZL(1)) means, the period during which the thing under the agreement is to be done. The eligible service period begins on the day on which the thing under the agreement commences to be done or on the day on which the expenditure is incurred, whichever is the

later, and ends on the last day on which the thing under the agreement ceases to be done, up to a maximum of 10 years.

*Application of the prepayment provisions to this Project*

99. The expenditure incurred by a Grower in the Project for the Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fees and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense meet the requirements of subsections 82KZME(1) and (2) and is incurred under an ‘agreement’ as described in subsection 82KZME(3). Therefore, unless one of the exceptions to section 82KZME applies, the amount and timing of tax deductions for those fees are determined under section 82KZMF.

100. The prepaid Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fees and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense being amounts of less than \$1,000 in each expenditure year, constitute ‘excluded expenditure’ as defined in subsection 82KZL(1). Under Exception 3 (subsection 82KZME(7)) ‘excluded expenditure’ is specifically excluded from the operation of section 82KZMF. A Grower who is an ‘STS taxpayer’ can, therefore, claim an immediate deduction for Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fees and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense in the income year in which it is paid. A Grower who is not an ‘STS taxpayer’ can claim an immediate deduction for Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fees and Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense in the income year in which it is incurred.

101. However, where a Grower acquires more than the minimum allocation of 10 interests in the Project and the quantum of the Initial Management Fee, Occupation Fees or Seed Purchase and Plant Establishment Expense is \$1,000 or more, the deduction allowable for those amounts will also be subject to apportionment according to the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1).

102. Although not required under the Management Agreement, a Grower participating in the Project may **choose** to prepay fees in relation to the Accrual Periods. Where this occurs, and unless one of the exceptions to section 82KZME applies, section 82KZMF will apply to apportion the expenditure according to the formula in subsection 82KZMF(1), shown at paragraph 97 above.

**Expenditure of a capital nature**

**Division 40 and Division 328**

103. Any part of the expenditure of a Grower that is attributable to acquiring an asset or advantage of an enduring kind is generally capital or capital in nature and will not be an allowable deduction under section 8-1. In this Project, expenditure attributable to

shadecloth, water facilities, and a 'landcare operation', are of a capital nature. This expenditure falls for consideration under Division 40 or Division 328 of the ITAA 1997.

104. The application and extent to which a Grower claims deductions under Division 40 and Division 328 depends on whether or not the Grower is an 'STS taxpayer'.

105. The tax treatment of capital expenditure has been dealt with in a representative way in paragraphs 58 and 67 (above) in the Tables and the accompanying Notes.

### **Deferral of losses from non-commercial business activities**

#### **Division 35**

106. Division 35 applies to losses from certain business activities for the income year ended 30 June 2001 and subsequent years. Under the rule in subsection 35-10(2) a deduction for a loss made by an individual (including an individual in a general law partnership) from certain business activities will not be taken into account in an income year unless:

- the exception in subsection 35-10(4) applies;
- one of four tests in sections 35-30, 35-35, 35-40 or 35-45 is met; or
- if one of the tests is not satisfied, the Commissioner exercises the discretion in section 35-55.

107. Generally, a loss in this context is, for the income year in question, the excess of an individual taxpayer's allowable deductions attributable to the business activity over that taxpayer's assessable income from the business activity.

108. Losses that cannot be taken into account in a particular year of income, because of subsection 35-10(2), can be applied to the extent of future profits from the business activity, or are deferred until one of the tests is passed, the discretion is exercised, or the exception applies.

109. For the purposes of applying Division 35, subsection 35-10(3) allows taxpayers to group business activities 'of a similar kind'. Under subsection 35-10(4), there is an 'exception' to the general rule in subsection 35-10(2) where the loss is from a primary production business activity and the individual taxpayer has other assessable income for the income year from sources not related to that activity, of less than \$40,000 (excluding any net capital gain). As both subsections relate to the individual circumstances of Growers who participate in the Project they are beyond the scope of this Product Ruling and are not considered further.

110. In broad terms, the tests require:

- (a) at least \$20,000 of assessable income in that year from the business activity (section 35-30);
- (b) the business activity results in a taxation profit in 3 of the past 5 income years (including the current year)(section 35-35);
- (c) at least \$500,000 of real property, or an interest in real property, (excluding any private dwelling) is used on a continuing basis in carrying on the business activity in that year (section 35-40); or
- (d) at least \$100,000 of certain other assets (excluding cars, motor cycles and similar vehicles) are used on a continuing basis in carrying on the business activity in that year (section 35-45).

111. A Grower who participates in the Project will be carrying on a business activity that is subject to these provisions. Information provided with the application for this Product Ruling indicates that a Grower who acquires the minimum allocation of 10 modules in the Project is unlikely to have their activity pass one of the tests until the income year ended 30 June 2007. Growers who acquire more than one interest in the Project may however, find that their activity meets one of the tests in an earlier income year.

112. Therefore, prior to this time, unless the Commissioner exercises an arm of the discretion under paragraphs 35-55(1)(a) or (b), the rule in subsection 35-10(2) will apply to defer to a future income year any loss that arises from the Grower's participation in the Project.

113. The first arm of the discretion in paragraph 35-55(1)(a) relates to 'special circumstances' applicable to the business activity, and has no relevance for the purposes of this Product Ruling. However, the second arm of the discretion in paragraph 35-55(1)(b) may be exercised by the Commissioner where the business activity has started to be carried on and for that, or those income years;

- because of its nature, the business activity has not satisfied, or will not satisfy one of the tests set out in Division 35; and
- there is an expectation that the business activity of an individual taxpayer will either pass one of the tests or produce a taxation profit within a period that is commercially viable for the industry concerned.

114. Information provided with this Product Ruling indicates that a Grower who acquires the minimum investment of 10 modules in the Project is expected to be carrying on a business activity that will produce a taxation profit, for the year ended 30 June 2007.

115. The Commissioner will decide for Growers who enter the Project during the year ended 30 June 2002 that it would be reasonable to exercise the second arm of the discretion for all income years up to, and including the income year ended 30 June 2006. The Commissioner will decide for Growers who enter the Project during the year ended 30 June 2003 that it would be reasonable to exercise the second arm of the discretion for all income years up to, and including the income year ended 30 June 2006.

116. This Product Ruling is issued on a prospective basis (i.e., before an individual Grower's business activity starts to be carried on). The Project, however, may fail to be carried on during the income years specified above (see paragraph 70), in the manner described in the Arrangement (see paragraphs 14 to 46). If so, this Ruling, and specifically the decision in relation to paragraph 35-55(1)(b), that it would be unreasonable that the loss deferral rule in subsection 35-10(2) not apply, may be affected, because the Ruling no longer applies (see paragraph 9). Growers may need to apply for private rulings on how paragraph 35-55(1)(b) will apply in such changed circumstances.

117. In deciding that the second arm of the discretion in paragraph 35-55(1)(b) will be exercised on this conditional basis, the Commissioner has relied upon:

- the report of the independent agricultural consultant and additional expert or scientific evidence provided with the application by the Responsible Entity;
- the binding supply and purchase agreement with the Processor for the sale of the ginseng roots setting out prices that realistically reflect the existing market and/or the projected market in the geographical region where the ginseng roots are grown;
- independent, objective, and generally available information relating to the ginseng industry which substantially supports cash flow projections and other claims, including prices and costs, in the Product Ruling application submitted by the Responsible Entity.

### **Section 82KL - recouped expenditure**

118. The operation of section 82KL depends, among other things, on the identification of a certain quantum of 'additional benefits(s)'. Insufficient 'additional benefits' will be provided to trigger the application of section 82KL. It will not apply to deny the deduction otherwise allowable under section 8-1.

**Part IVA - general tax avoidance provisions**

119. For Part IVA to apply there must be a 'scheme' (section 177A), a 'tax benefit' (section 177C) and a dominant purpose of entering into the scheme to obtain a tax benefit (section 177D).

120. The Heydon Park Ginseng Project No. 1 will be a 'scheme'. A Grower will obtain a 'tax benefit' from entering into the scheme, in the form of tax deductions for the amounts detailed at paragraphs 56 to 67 that would not have been obtained but for the scheme. However, it is not possible to conclude the scheme will be entered into or carried out with the dominant purpose of obtaining this tax benefit.

121. Growers to whom this Ruling applies intend to stay in the scheme for its full term and derive assessable income from the harvesting and sale of the ginseng roots. There are no facts that would suggest that Growers have the opportunity of obtaining a tax advantage other than the tax advantages identified in this Ruling. There is no non-recourse financing or round robin characteristics, and no indication that the parties are not dealing at arm's length or, if any parties are not dealing at arm's length, that any adverse tax consequences result. Further, having regard to the factors to be considered under paragraph 177D(b) it cannot be concluded, on the information available, that participants will enter into the scheme for the dominant purpose of obtaining a tax benefit.

**Examples****Example 1 - Entitlement to GST input tax credits**

122. Susan, who is a sole trader and registered for GST, contracts with a manager to manage her viticulture business. Her manager is registered for GST and charges her a management fee payable every six months in advance. On 1 December 2001 Susan receives a valid tax invoice from her manager requesting payment of a management fee in advance, and also requesting payment for an improvement in the connection of electricity for her vineyard that she contracted him to carry out. The tax invoice includes the following details:

Management fee for period 1/1/2002 to 30/6/2002	\$4 400*
Carrying out of upgrade of power for your vineyard as quoted	<u>\$2 200*</u>
Total due and payable by 1 January 2002 (includes GST of \$600)	<u>\$6 600</u>

\*Taxable supply

Susan pays the invoice by the due date and calculates her input tax credit on the management fee (to be claimed through her Business Activity Statement) as:

$$1/11 \times \$4400 = \$400.$$

Hence her outgoing for the management fee is effectively \$4400 *less* \$400, or \$4000.

Similarly, Susan calculates her input tax credit on the connection of electricity as:

$$1/11 \times \$2200 = \$200.$$

Hence her outgoing for the power upgrade is effectively \$2200 *less* \$200, or \$2000.

In preparing her income tax return for the year ended 30 June 2002, Susan is aware that the management fee is deductible in the year incurred. She calculates her management fee deduction as \$4000 (not \$4400).

Susan is aware that the electricity upgrade is deductible 10% per year over a 10 year period. She calculates her deduction for the power upgrade as \$200 (one tenth of \$2000 only, not one tenth of \$2200).

### **Example 2 – Apportionment of Fees**

123. Murray decides to participate in the ABC Pineforest Prospectus which is offering 500 interests of 0.5ha in an afforestation project of 25 years. The management fees are \$5,000 in the first year and \$1,200 for years 2 and 3. From year 4 onwards the management fee will be the previous year's fee increased by the CPI. The first year's fees are payable on execution of the agreements for services to be provided in the following 12 months and thereafter, the fees are payable in advance each year on the anniversary of that date. The project is subject to a minimum subscription of 300 interests. Murray provides the Project Manager with a 'Power of Attorney' allowing the Manager to execute his Management Agreement and the other relevant agreements on his behalf. On 5 June 2002 the Project Manager informs Murray that the minimum subscription has been reached and the Project will go ahead. Murray's agreements are duly executed and management services start to be provided on that date.

Murray is an 'STS taxpayer' who is not registered, nor required to be registered for GST. He calculates his tax deduction for management fees for the **2002 income year** as follows:

Management fee x  $\frac{\text{Number of days of eligible service period in the year of income}}{\text{Total number of days of eligible service period}}$

\$5,000 X 26

365

= **\$356** (this is Murray's total tax deduction in 2002 for the Year 1 prepaid management fees of \$5,000. It represents the 26 days for which management services were provided in the 2002 income year).

In the **2003 income year** Murray will be able to claim a tax deduction for management fees calculated as the sum of two separate amounts:

$$\$5,000 \times \frac{339}{365}$$

= **\$4,644** (this represents the balance of the Year 1 prepaid fees for services provided to Murray in the 2003 income year).

$$\$1,200 \times \frac{26}{365}$$

= **\$85** (this represents the portion of the Year 2 prepaid management fees for the 26 days during which services were provided to Murray in the 2003 income year).

**\$4,644 + \$85 = \$4,729** (The sum of these two amounts is Murray's total tax deduction for management fees in 2003).

Murray continues to calculate his tax deduction for prepaid management fees using this method for the term of the Project.

### **Example 3 – Apportionment of fees where there is a contractual 'eligible service period' and the fees include expenditure that is 'excluded expenditure'**

124. On 1 June 2002 Kevin applies for an interest into the Western Bluegum Project, a prospectus based afforestation project of 12 years. Kevin is accepted into the project and executes a lease and management agreement with the Responsible Entity for the provision of management services and the lease of his Woodlot. The terms of the lease and management agreement require Kevin to prepay the management fees and the lease fee on or before the 30 June each year for the lease of his Woodlot and the provision of management services between the 1 July and 30 June in the following income year. Kevin pays the first year management fee of \$3,600 and first year lease fee of \$500 on 15 June 2002.

Kevin, who is not an 'STS taxpayer' is not registered, nor required to be registered for GST.

He calculates his tax deduction for management fees and the lease fee for the **2001 income year** as follows:

#### *Management fee*

Even though he paid the \$3,600 in the 2002 income year, because there are no 'days of eligible service period' in that year, Kevin is

unable to claim any part of his management fees as a tax deduction in his tax return for the year ended 30 June 2002.

*Lease fee*

Because the \$500 lease fee is less than \$1,000 it is 'excluded expenditure' and can be claimed in full as a tax deduction in Kevin's tax return for the year ended 30 June 2002.

In the **2003 income year** Kevin can claim a tax deduction for his first year's management fees calculated as follows:

$$\begin{array}{r} \$3,600 \times \frac{365}{365} \end{array}$$

= **\$3,600** (this represents the whole of the first year's management fee prepaid in the 2002 income year but not deductible until the 2003 income year).

For the term of the Project Kevin continues to calculate his tax deduction for prepaid fees using this method.=

## **Detailed contents list**

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**Commissioner of Taxation**

26 June 2002

*Previous draft:*

Not previously issued in draft form

*Related Rulings/Determinations:*

TR 92/1; TR 92/20; TD 93/34;  
 TR 97/11; TR 97/16; TR 98/22;  
 TR 2000/8; PR 1999/95; IT 360

*Subject references:*

- carrying on a business
- commencement of business
- crops as trading stock
- fee expenses
- horticulture
- irrigation expenses
- Management Fees expenses
- plantation forestry
- primary production

- primary production expenses
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- producing assessable income
- product rulings
- public rulings
- schemes and shams
- tax administration
- tax avoidance
- tax benefits under tax avoidance schemes
- tax shelters
- tax shelters project
- trading stock

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