



11 May 2026

## **Update on 2026 AOA National Olive Conference**

By this time of year, the Australian Olive Association (AOA) would normally have released details of the annual National Olive Conference & Exhibition. There's a lot going on in horticulture, however, which has necessitated a pause for logistical considerations around this year's event.

Most significant is the disruption to the global fuel supply chain, which has already impacted via higher fuel and fertiliser prices. With the Middle-East conflict ongoing, the longer-term impacts are uncertain.

Fuel is currently being drawn from existing supplies, and the Federal Government is sourcing additional shipments where possible. The most difficult impacts of the current situation have not yet arrived, however, and there is no certainty regarding the fuel supply situation by October.

Not surprisingly, many olive growers have reported that fuel is currently the most significant issue for their business – both the increased cost and ongoing availability.

Considering these concerns, the AOA Board and conference organisers have determined that it is not viable to lock in a national conference this year. A centralised gathering would be impossible if fuel restrictions are in place, and fiscal responsibility to our members means the risk of losing the necessary substantial event deposits is not acceptable.

It's important to note also that, even if the supply restrictions were to lift by July or August, the months of planning required, along with the scarcity of specialised venues and locations to suit our three-day event, make a 2026 conference unrealistic. Delivering the quality event our industry expects simply isn't possible in this window.

While a physical national gathering is not possible, we recognise the importance and value of knowledge sharing and networking via industry events. The organising team has therefore been "thinking outside the square" since the fuel crisis arose, and has prepared concepts for several alternative options based on different year-end scenarios. The AOA is ready to pivot to the most suitable option.

A final decision on these alternatives will be made and communicated in the new financial year, when there is more clarity around the fuel situation in particular.

And we're already looking ahead to 2027, when we'll return to our traditional event format of field day, plenary sessions and trade exhibition, providing myriad opportunities to learn, interact and network.

Thank you for your understanding. If you have any questions, you can contact me at [ceo@australianolives.com.au](mailto:ceo@australianolives.com.au).

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