



Costa Group  
Holdings Limited  
ASX:CGC

**‘Managing the Unpredictable’**

UBS Australasia Conference

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# Managing the unpredictable – today's conference theme

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- Sustainable success in agriculture equals being able to manage the unpredictable.
- Number of issues to be pro actively managed - weather including the impact of climate change, usage of energy and water, geographical and product diversity and market volatility.
- Must be agile, innovative and active in implementing change.
- Difficult to 'Predict the Unpredictable', however we must always anticipate and prepare for it.



# Costa

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The Costa business model can be simply stated as:

- Portfolio of five attractive fresh vertically integrated produce categories – mushrooms, berries, citrus, glasshouse tomatoes and avocados
- Integrated farmer, packer and marketer
- Active risk management, circa 65% protected cropping, portfolio and geographic diversity
- 52 week production via geographical reach, varietal mix and agronomic expertise
- Product and process IP as a key differentiator
- Number one market position in core categories with high market share
- Expanding international business by leveraging core competencies and
- Strong retail focus - largest fresh produce supplier to the major Australian retailers – Woolworths, Coles and Aldi





# Managing Climate Change – Protected Cropping

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- Responded and adapted to climate change by altering our risk profile.
- In a number of categories moved from traditional open field agriculture, to more of an industrial agronomic system.
- Selection and rapid scaling up of protected cropping activity - including mushrooms, berries and glasshouse tomatoes.
- Managing risk but also improving yield & quality.



# Reducing Risks of Unprotected Cropping

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Citrus farming has historically been unprotected.

Over 24 hectares of permanent protective net structures covering mandarins and persimmons in the Riverland of South Australia.

Main benefits :

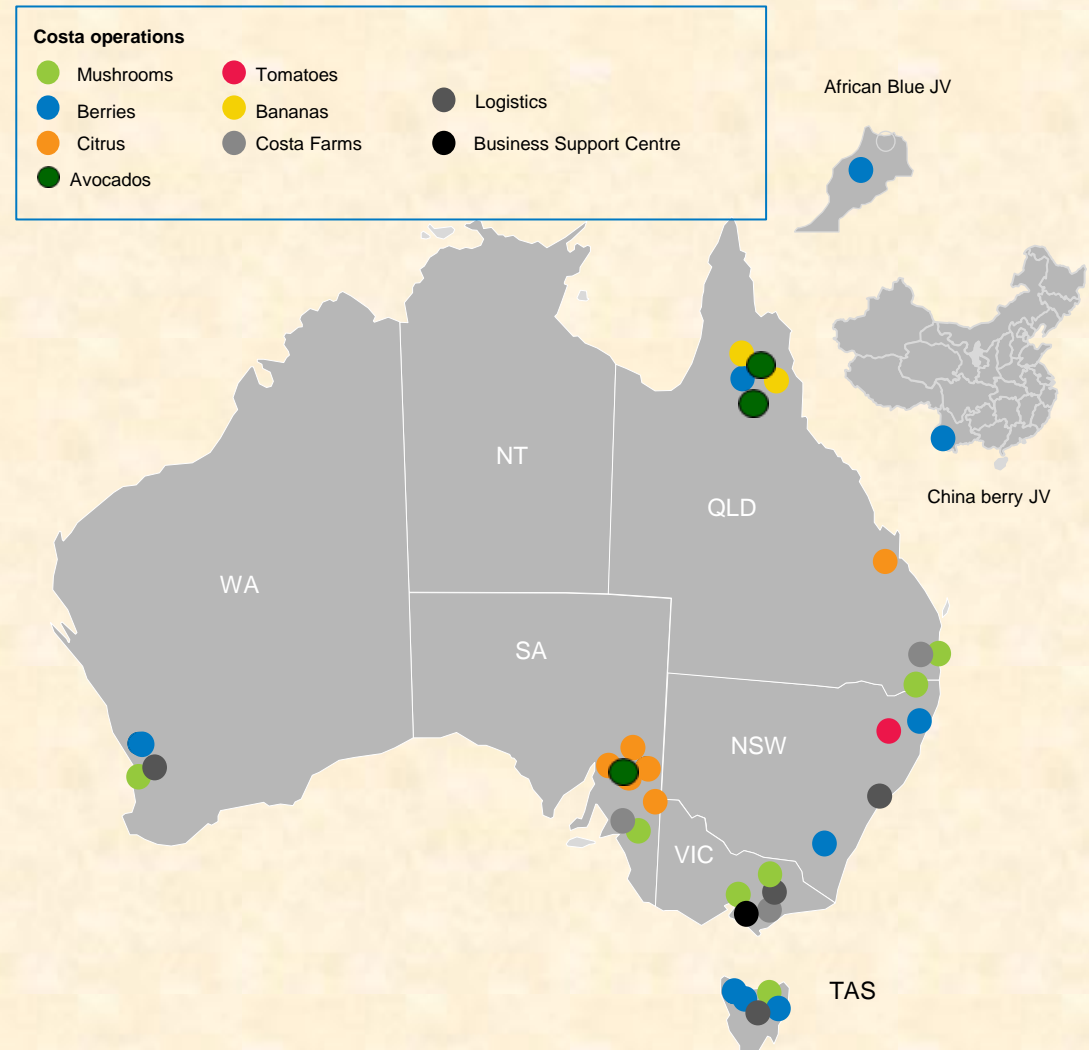
- Reduces water usage by 10% to 20%.
- Minimises fruit damage from wind, higher % of first grade fruit increases average price.
- Stops bees from pollinating a fourer mandarins, reducing the seed count and increases marketability.
- Protects trees and crop from hail events, reduces sunburn on the fruit.

A further 20 hectares of permanent netting over our early season table grape farm at Mundubbera in QLD.



# Geographical and Product Diversity

- Focused on a wider geographical dispersal of our production sites.
- Reduced previous reliance on a small number of locations, spread harvest periods to 52 weeks in most categories.
- Blueberries grown across five regions in four states – New South Wales, FNQ, Tasmania and Western Australia.
- Strength in product diversity across five core produce categories.
- Vertically integrated - control production, post-harvest, supply and marketing.





# Innovation in Agronomic Practices - Substrate Production

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- Continually exploring new ways to improve crop yield through innovative agronomic practices.
- Early global adopter of substrate hydroponic production of raspberries. Now a world leader in using this agronomic technique to grow blueberries.
- Continued refinement and new learnings.

- Changed blueberry production technique from 'in soil' growing to substrate.
- Yield in first year of substrate planting equal to that of 'in soil' yield after three years.
- Today all Australian and Chinese blueberry growth plantings are in substrate, also converting replant crops to substrate.



# Reliability of Energy Supply

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Reliability and certainty of energy supply is more important than cost in our business.

## Generators

- Five backup generators at largest mushroom facility in Mernda, Victoria.
- Removes the risk of power outage incidents which could destroy up to seven weeks of crop for each incident.
- Tomato glasshouses at Guyra NSW and mushroom facilities in South Australia and Western Australia also have backup generators to run entire sites.





# Reliability of Energy Supply

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## Solar

- Already using solar to power irrigation pumps at largest berry farm.
- Reviewed solar power options across a number of sites.
- Focus on South Australia. Solar farm to be installed at South Australian mushroom facility.
- 2,000KW capacity. Initially will complement power from the grid.



## Batteries

- Investigating economics of batteries to provide on-site storage capability and enhance energy security.



# Water Use and Management

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## Capture

- State of the art 10 hectare glasshouse producing snacking tomatoes has a closed water cycle, does not require any water sourced external to the site.
- Capture rainfall from glasshouse roofs, buildings, hard stands and land within a defined site perimeter. Large holding dams to store captured water.
- Recycling of water and nutrients from the glasshouse - micro filtration to purify water for use.





## Efficiency

- Citrus farms utilise cutting edge drip fertigation technology.
- Enviro scan probes monitor moisture.
- Technology is used to determine if there is under irrigating (causing stress) or over irrigating (wasting water).
- Enables informed decisions in applying precise water and nutrient amounts.



## Recycling

- Installation of a waste water treatment plant at largest mushroom farm at Mernda in Victoria.
- Captures approximately 1ML of waste water per week which is recycled and reused.
- Reduced site usage of potable mains water by up to 40%.



# Costa's vertically integrated business model is strategically designed to achieve sustainable competitive advantage and manage agricultural risk

*Our values and people culture underpins the model and is the main success factor*

## Diversification

- Diversified category **portfolio** with scale and market share
- **Vertically integrated** produce operations
- **Geographic spread** of production
  - National Australian footprint across the 6 states
  - International berry footprint (Morocco, China)
- Royalty income streams
- Multiple sales channels (domestic & export)

## IP, technology and people

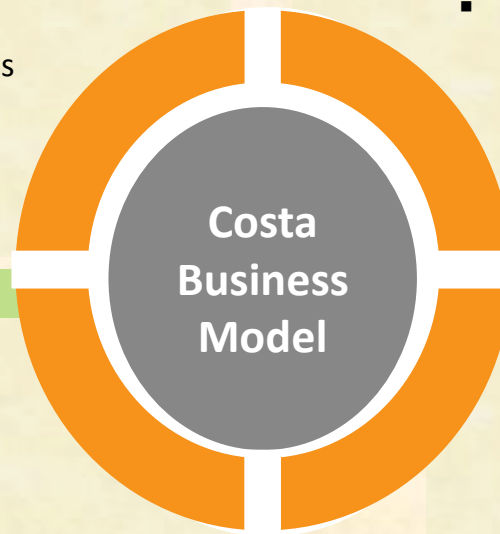
- **Superior product genetics**, both developed internally and through partnering arrangements (eg Driscoll's, Syngenta, Sunworld, Amycel)
- Costa pursues a 'lowest cost' mindset
- Efficient production techniques
  - Modern farming, harvesting and irrigation technology
- Post-harvest and product quality discipline
- Product innovation and branding

## Protected cropping

- Costa focuses on core produce categories that have the potential for protected cropping to mitigate environmental risk
- **Protected cropping** techniques across a number of key categories (~75% of product related earnings in FY17)
  - Growing indoors, in glasshouses, under tunnels & permanent netting, and in substrate manages risk and **improves yield & quality**

## Year-round production

- Costa has invested in produce categories that are **large scale** and have the potential for year-round supply
  - **52-week supply** removes seasonality, maintains consumer reach and smooths cashflow
  - Achieved by production methods, varietal selection and geographic spread
- Marketing programs aligned to supply patterns





## Discussion

