

NFFC Communiqué

The 38th meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC, or the Council) was held online on 20 March 2026. The meeting introduced the new NFFC Manager to the Council and outlined a roadmap of activities for 2026.

National Fruit Fly Strategy Development 2026-35

The primary output for the NFFC in 2026 will be the development of the new National Fruit Fly Strategy (NFFS) covering the period from 2026-2035. This strategy will provide industry, regulators and research funders and providers with guidance on future investment needs to limit the impact of both established and exotic fruit flies into the future.

The NFFC has already devised four key themes as the focus of the new NFFS, these are:

- Preventing entry
- Minimise impact
- Improve trade systems
- Strengthen collaboration

Critical to the successful development of the new strategy will be ongoing stakeholder engagement throughout the year. The NFFC will be holding regional workshops in three key fruit fly affected production regions: SE Qld, the Sunraysia/Riverland and WA. These regions have been selected due to both their importance to our horticultural sector and differences in fruit fly species (i.e., Qfly v Medfly) and pest pressure (i.e., established v transient populations).

The purpose of the regional workshops will be to:

1. Discuss industry concerns related to the proposed themes
2. Enhance stakeholder engagement with the NFFC
3. Increase stakeholder ownership and implementation of the new NFFS

Once the draft NFFS is nearing completion, a further research-focussed workshop will then be delivered to perform a stocktake of current Research Development and Extension (RD&E), highlight gaps in RD&E based informed by the newly drafted NFFS and inform recommendations regarding future fruit fly RD&E investment. The Council will provide further information on the timing of these workshops soon. For those stakeholders unable to attend any of these workshops, a webinar will be delivered later in the year to provide an update on the development of the Strategy and an additional opportunity to provide feedback during its development.

Economic analysis of the impact of fruit flies on Australian horticulture

A key activity supporting the development of the new NFFS is an Economic Analysis of the impact of endemic and exotic fruit flies on Australian horticulture including through losses in production and market access. This project commenced in early 2026. This analysis aims to develop an economic framework that provides current understanding of potential regional and national impacts that fruit flies have on our horticulture sector. The project also aims to identify fruit fly related issues that may further impact on the sector into the future, identify potential solutions to these future issues, and finally conduct a cost-benefit analysis of these solutions to ensure RD&E funders and providers can ensure optimal return of investment to their stakeholders.

To ensure that the analysis provides an accurate representation of the true costs on fruit flies on our economy, the analysis will be 'road tested' during the regional workshops that will underpin the NFFS's development.

Implementation Plan 2025-26

Although the NFFS is currently being revised through 2026, work by the NFFC remains guided by the priorities set in the 2020-25 Strategy. The NFFS was developed by the Council to provide a supporting framework for stakeholder cooperation as part of a national approach to fruit fly management. Implementation of the NFFS is monitored by the Council through development and review of annual Implementation Plans designed to aggregate information on key fruit fly focussed activity through each reporting period. Each Implementation Plan is evaluated by the Council through the development of an Implementation Report which outlines progress against the NFFS Strategic Framework. Both the Implementation Plans and Reports provide an evidence base on the progress towards a national strategy that limits the impact of established and exotic fruit flies on both commercial and amenities horticulture.

During Meeting #38, NFFC Manager, Stephen Quarrell provided an update on the NFFC 2025-26 Implementation Plan with the Council discussing the development of the 2025-26 Report later this year. A copy of the 2025-26 Plan can be found on the Prevent Fruit Fly website.

The next NFFC meeting (Meeting #39) will be held in mid-2026.