

National Fruit Fly Council
Annual Report
December 2025



SUMMARY

This Annual Report outlines progress against the planned deliverables of the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC, here on referred to as the Council) for the calendar year, January to December 2025.

This report implements the findings of a review of the operations and composition of the Council which commenced in 2022 and resulted in the addition of an Executive Committee to progress strategic activities as agreed by the Council. Whilst jurisdictional members of the Council are appointed by direct nomination, an Expression of Interest (EOI) process is used to appoint industry members of the Council as well as all members of the Executive Committee. During 2025, four new industry representatives of the Council were appointed through an EOI process. In addition, a separate EOI process was also undertaken for the Executive Committee which resulted in the appointment of two new state representatives and one new industry representative. Current members of the Council and Executive Committee are listed in Table 1 and Table 2, respectively.

Table 1. Members of the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC) as of 18 September 2025. New members appointed during 2025 are followed by an asterisk (*).

Name	Industry/Organisation
John Webster	Independent Chair
Stuart Burgess	Plant Health Australia
Ashley Zamek	Hort Innovation
Shane Hetherington	New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
Nick Secomb	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
Michael Reid	Department of Primary Industries Queensland
Susanna Driessen	Department of Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania
Vincent Lanoiselet	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Western Australia
Susie Collins	Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry
Rosa Crnov	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Victoria
Steve Burdette	Approved Employers of Australia (Industry)
Jessica Lye*	Citrus Australia (Industry)
Alison McGregor*	Australian Table Grapes Association (Industry)
Dale Williams	Euri Gold Farms (Industry)
Russell Fox*	InSense (Industry)
Tim Grieger*	Summerfruit South Australia (Industry)

Table 2. Members of the Executive Committee as at 29 August 2025. New members appointed during 2025 are followed by an asterisk (*).

Name	Industry/Organisation
John Webster	Independent Chair
Stuart Burgess	Plant Health Australia
Ashley Zamek	Hort Innovation
Nick Secomb*	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia



Name	Industry/Organisation
Susie Collins	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Michael Reid*	Department of Primary Industries Queensland
Steve Burdette	Steve Burdette & Associates, Horticultural Consultancy (Industry)
Alison MacGregor*	Australian Table Grape Association (Industry)

The Council is responsible for producing an annual priorities document for publication that the Council and Executive Committee use as a driver for work in the next calendar year. This document is created from the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP), Annual Implementation Report (AIR) and gap analysis work that the Council produces in its monitoring of the [National Fruit Fly Strategy 2020-25](#) (NFFS).

A series of new Council Working and Task Groups have been instigated including the NFFC Research Working Group (RWG) and the NFFC Economic Analysis Task Group. These have been convened to enable broad engagement across the national fruit fly system and the NFFS as well as providing access to expertise to support the work of the Council. The 2024-25 AIR details progress against the current NFF Strategy 2020-25 and achievements of the Council from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025. Progress across each of the eight key result areas from the NFFS is monitored against the strategic framework and objectives within the NFFS. The AIR is finalised in June of the previous financial year and published along with the next financial year's AIP.

The final draft of the 2025–26 AIP has been completed. It collates the key fruit fly activities that are planned and resourced by stakeholders from 1 July 2025 to 31 June 2026. This plan is used to monitor progress against the NFFS and identify gaps that need to be addressed in the national system. The AIP acknowledges the considerable ongoing contributions from the different stakeholders to fruit fly management in Australia. Importantly, it also provides an opportunity to collectively consider potential gaps in the system as guided by the Intergovernmental Agreement on Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System.

The National Fruit Fly Council project

Phase 4 of the Council is funded by Hort Innovation, state and territory governments, the Australian Government and fruit fly impacted horticultural industries. The Council is a strategic body that brings together federal and state governments, growers, and research funders to oversee the implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and to provide advice and leadership on the delivery of a cost-effective and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies across Australia.

The outcomes of Phase 4 are to provide a national strategic direction for the management of fruit fly in Australia, prioritise Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) for fruit fly in Australia, and inform a national approach to the application of fruit fly management to meet industry needs for domestic and international trade (Figure 1).



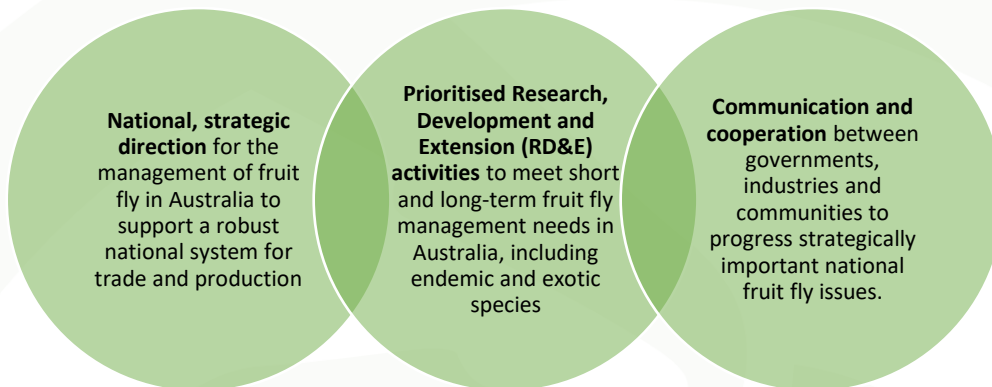


Figure 1. Outcomes of the National Fruit Fly Council Phase 4 project.

Phase 4 continues to build on the considerable foundation of work generated during previous Phases and increased national engagement and identified priorities to strengthen the national fruit fly system and Australia’s trade position. As a result, the Council is now uniquely positioned to provide an independent and facilitatory role in bringing stakeholders together around key issues that require national coordination and cooperation to be progressed and resolved.

The project supports regular meetings of the Council, and a small project team within Plant Health Australia. This team is responsible for developing the Council’s agenda, increasing connectivity with trade and research stakeholders, and communicating with fruit fly stakeholders across Australia.

The project contributes to the Hort Frontiers Fruit Fly Investment fund outcome of “*Maintained export markets – fruit fly as a second order issue for our trading partners*” by providing coordinated and collective consideration of national fruit fly challenges by key decision-makers and service providers, and those most affected by fruit fly. As a result of these discussions, the NFFC has provided advice and leadership on the resolution of issues that benefit horticultural production and trade.

The project also contributes to the biosecurity outcomes of fruit fly impacted industry specific Strategic Investment Plans (SIPs) within Hort Innovation. These outcomes include industry preparedness, responsiveness, and resilience to biosecurity threats (e.g., exotic fruit flies), a national approach to fruit fly management, reduced impact of endemic pests and improved on-farm practices.



Key Deliverables

National Fruit Fly Council Meetings

During 2025, two Council meetings were held on 28 February 2025 (NFFC Meeting #36) and 18 September 2025 (NFFC Meeting #37), respectively (Table 3).

Table 3. Council meetings held during 2025.

Meeting Title	Meeting Date	Comments
NFFC Meeting #36	28 February 2025	Hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at AgriBio in Bundoora, Victoria.
NFFC Meeting #37	18 September 2025	Hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the Ecoscience Precinct in Dutton Park, Queensland.

NFFC Meeting #36

During the meeting, the Council were provided with an overview of the Economic Analysis component of the review and development of the new National Fruit Fly Strategy (NFFS) to cover the period from 2026-2035 inclusive. During the meeting, it was confirmed that the Executive Committee would act as the formal governance group throughout the planning process and circulate feedback to the full Council on a regular basis. Final drafts of the Annual Implementation Report 2023-24 and the Annual Implementation Plan 2024-25 were also provided to the Council for feedback and finalisation during the meeting; however, it was agreed that the Council would provide endorsement for both documents out-of-session within a two-week period following NFFC Meeting #36. Council members who attended NFFC Meeting #36 in person were also invited to participate in a tour prior to the meeting of the AgriBio Centre facilities and other fruit fly related research programs undertaken at the Centre. The tour, which was led by Dr Paul Cunningham and Mark Blacket from Agriculture Victoria, included a fruit fly related research presentation followed by an extensive tour of the facilities and other fruit fly related research programs undertaken at the Centre. The tour informed discussions during the subsequent NFFC Meeting #36.

NFFC Meeting #37

During the meeting, the Council was provided with an update on recent activity as well as proposed timelines and stakeholder engagement to support the review and development of the new NFFS to cover the period from 2026-2035 inclusive. The planned Economic Analysis was also discussed, including its role in supporting the review and development of the new NFFS. David Pearce from the Centre for International Economics (CIE) provided further information on the proposed project to conduct the Economic Analysis including explanation of key aspects including the approach for the economic modelling, development of baseline data and the role of Expert Panels. The proposed economic analysis is expected to include three focus areas:

- **Existing costs** - a baseline (what is fruit fly costing now including incremental costs of measures to control fruit fly and any other losses of productivity and potential losses of sales particularly into export markets)
- **Future costs** - the drivers of the costs of fruit fly into the future (natural tendency of the industry to expand, demand to expand, risk aspects including movement of fruit fly into new regions, arrival of new species of fruit fly into Australia)



- **Incremental benefits of particular strategic measures** - for a particular strategic action, how does it change the cost of fruit fly, for example probabilities of arrival of a new species, control costs etc.



Figure 2. NFFC Meeting #37 was held on 18 September at the Ecosciences Precinct in Brisbane, with members attending both in person and online.

NFFC Executive Committee Meetings

One meeting of the Executive Committee was held in 2025 on 29 August 2025 (Table 4). During the meeting, Executive Committee members provided updates on a range of issues including but not limited to, discussions regarding species differentiation of *Bactrocera aquilonis* and Queensland fruit fly, exotic fruit fly detections in the Torres Strait, changes in fruit fly funding in Victoria, trialing of a Mat cup initiative and recent fruit fly detections in South Australia. The NFFC Manager also provided an update to the Executive Committee on ongoing conversations that have been held with the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (FASTA) regarding safe trade, Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) and area wide management.

Table 4. Executive Committee meetings held during 2025.

Meeting Title	Meeting Date	Comments
NFFC Executive Committee Meeting #38	29 August 2025	Online

National Fruit Fly Strategy Review and Development 2026-35

Based on feedback received during the various Council and Executive Committee meetings held throughout 2024, a strategic review process for the development of NFFS 2026-35 was prepared (Figure 3). A key benefit identified throughout the process was in ensuring all voices from those impacted by fruit flies in Australia be heard and incorporated into any future direction.

The key outputs proposed to be developed through the NFFS 2026-35 Review Process include:

1. NFFS 2026-35 Strategy (full version)
2. NFFS 2026-35 Strategy (2 page summary version)
3. NFFS 2026-28 3-Year Operational Plan (3-yr rolling plan)
4. NFF RD&E Plan 2026-35



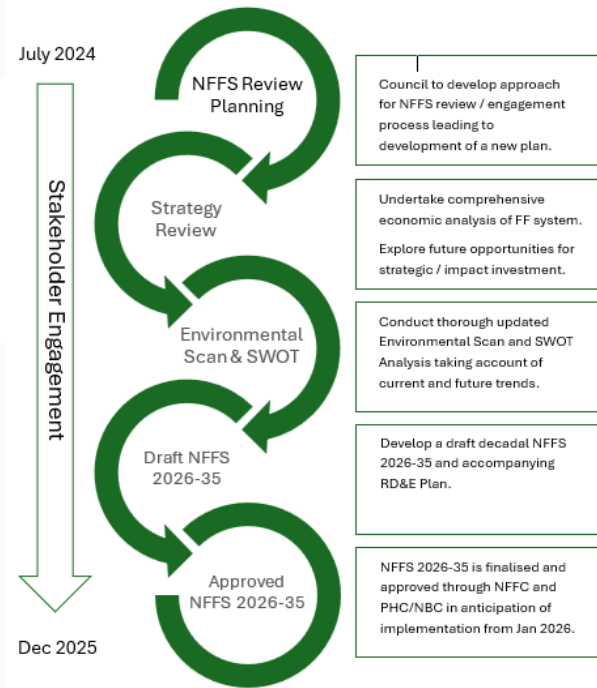


Figure 3. Draft NFFS Strategic Review Process.

National Fruit Fly Strategy Review Workshop

A Strategy workshop was held in-person at the EcoSciences precinct in Brisbane on 18 September 2025. The workshop, which followed the FASTA Symposium, provided an opportunity to engage in shaping the next NFFS Strategy for 2026-2035.

The workshop attracted 40 participants representing affected industries, government, and the research community. The workshop comprised of a strategy overview session led by the NFFC team as well as an economic analysis workshop presented by David Pearce from the Centre for International Economics (CIE).



Figure 4. Attendees at the National Fruit Fly Strategy Workshop held on 18th September 2025.





Figure 5. Attendees at the National Fruit Fly Strategy Workshop held on 18th September 2025.

Prevent Fruit Fly E-Newsletter

Prevent Fruit Fly E-Newsletters serve to engage stakeholders on Council activities and national fruit fly priorities. During 2025, the number of newsletter subscribers rose to 1,045 which represents an increase of 3.2% from 2024. The December 2025 edition of the Prevent Fruit Fly e-Newsletter, which was distributed on 19 December 2025, is available online on the Prevent Fruit Fly website (<https://createsend.com/t/j-85CA196AA1F262F02540EF23F30FEDED>).

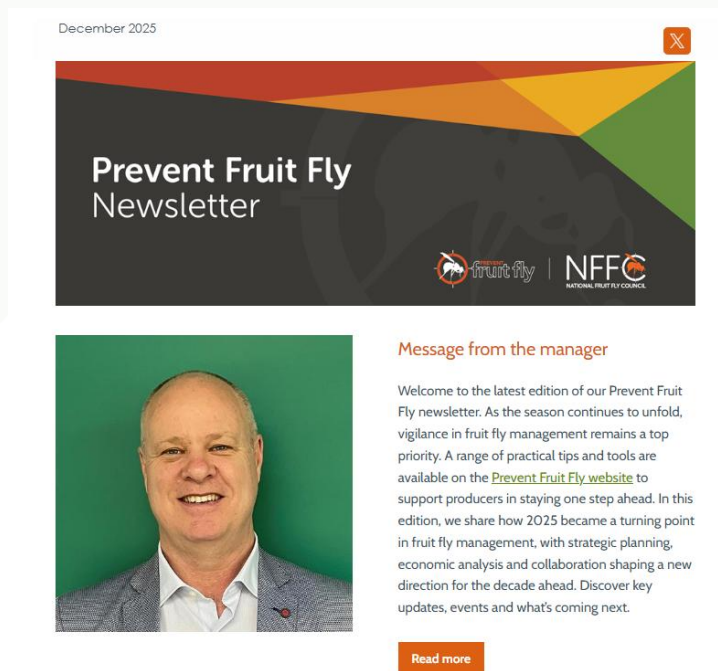


Figure 6. Excerpt from the December 2025 edition of the Prevent Fruit Fly E-Newsletter.



Prevent Fruit Fly Website

During 2025, updates and improvements were made to the Prevent Fruit Fly website (<https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/>) to ensure its effectiveness. This included updates as per correspondence with the DAFF trade team which resulted in the removal of the NFF Industry Placemats. Engagement with the Prevent Fruit Fly website remained strong in 2025, highlighting its reputation as a source of information about national fruit fly priorities and Council activities. The PFF website had 34,881 page views and 23,392 users in 2025, up 11.9% and 31.5% on 2024, respectively. Ten PFF articles were also featured across nine editions of PHA’s e-newsletter, Tendrils, with an average distribution of 1,938 subscribers per edition. A summary of news articles published on the Prevent Fruit Fly website in 2025 is provided in Table 5.

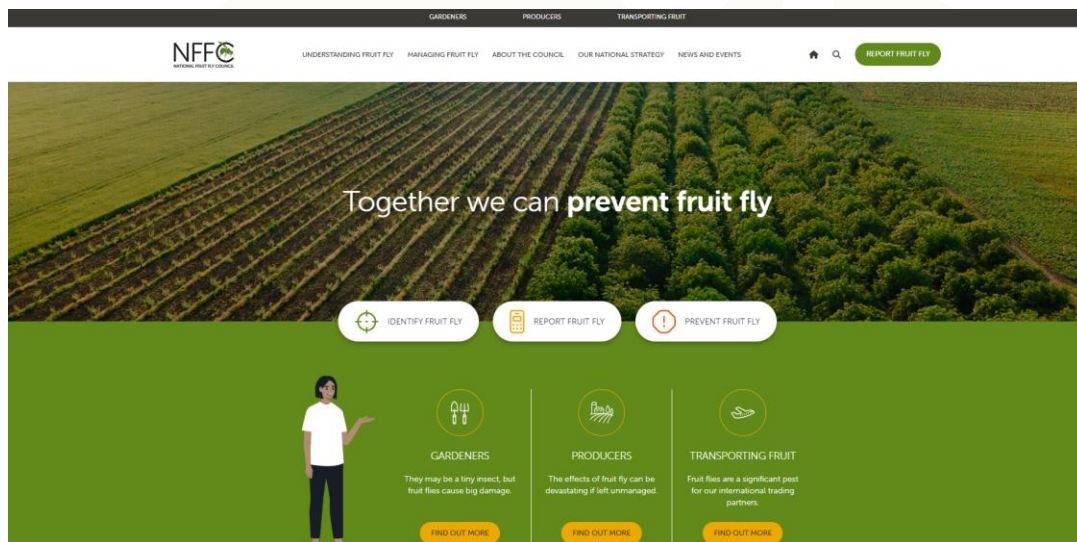


Figure 7. The Prevent Fruit Fly website (<https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/>).

Table 5. Articles published on the Prevent Fruit Fly website during 2025.

Article Number	Title	Date Published	Link to published article on the Prevent Fruit Fly website
1	Register now for the 1 st NFFC Think Tank webinar of 2025	30 Jan 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/register-now-for-the-1st-nffc-think-tank-webinar-of-2025/
2	Nomination of Tephritidae experts for IPPC Diagnostic Protocols	12 Feb 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nomination-of-tephritidae-experts-for-ippc-diagnostic-protocols/
3	National Fruit Fly Council Visits Mareeba and Far North Queensland	25 Feb 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/national-fruit-fly-council-visits-mareeba-and-far-north-queensland/
4	NFFC Webinar: eTools and Area Wide Management in action	25 Feb 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nffc-webinar-etools-and-area-wide-management-in-action/
5	Pest expedition bears fruit for bio and food security	14 Mar 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/pest-expedition-bears-fruit-for-bio-and-food-security/



Article Number	Title	Date Published	Link to published article on the Prevent Fruit Fly website
6	Who's who in fruit fly: Steve Burdette	23 Jun 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/whos-who-in-fruit-fly-steve-burdette/
7	Act early on fruit fly this spring	25 Aug 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/act-early-on-fruit-fly-this-spring/
8	Help shape the future of Australia's Fruit Fly Strategy	10 Sep 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/help-shape-the-future-of-australias-fruit-fly-strategy/
9	Fruit fly roadmap sharpened with industry and research input	24 Sep 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/fruit-fly-roadmap-sharpened-with-industry-and-research-input/
10	National Fruit Fly Strategic Review update	29 Oct 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/national-fruit-fly-strategic-review-update/
11	Biocontrol research delivers promising results for fruit fly management	26 Nov 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/biocontrol-research-delivers-promising-results-for-fruit-fly-management/
12	Message from the manager	10 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/message-from-the-manager-9/
13	NFFC welcomes New Zealand delegation to Brisbane	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nffc-welcomes-new-zealand-delegation-to-brisbane/
14	NFFC Meeting – 18 September 2025	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nffc-meeting-18-september-2025/
15	NFFC Planning	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nffc-planning/
16	NFFC and FASTA Symposium	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/nffc-and-fasta-symposium/
17	National Priority Plant Pests: Australia's top biosecurity threats	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/national-priority-plant-pests-australias-top-biosecurity-threats/
18	Who's who in fruit fly: Dr Rieks Van Klinken	11 Dec 2025	https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/whos-who-in-fruit-fly-dr-rieks-van-klinken/

Prevent Fruit Fly Social Media - X account

In 2025, 106 social media posts were shared across the PFF and PHA channels, generating 1,489 total engagements. This included 25 tweets and 16 retweets on the PFF Twitter account, with 1,668 engagements.

Other NFFC Phase 4 activities

Meeting with the New Zealand Fruit Fly Council

A meeting was held with the New Zealand Fruit Fly Council on 11 November 2025 during which the NFFC Manager presented on current work of the Australian NFFC to facilitate two-way international knowledge exchange regarding fruit fly management.



'E-tools for Area Wide Management' Think Tank Webinar

The 'E-tools for Area Wide Management' Think Tank webinar was held on 4 February 2025 and attracted more than 50 participants. In preparation for the webinar, multiple meetings were also held between the NFFC Manager and the presenter, Bron Koll, prior to the webinar and regarding finalisation of the current 3-year Agriculture Victoria funded Area Wide Management regional projects.



Figure 8. The 'E-tools for Area Wide Management' Think Tank webinar was held on 4th February 2025.

Other engagement

General engagement undertaken throughout 2025 included, but was not limited to:

- Meeting with Michael Carrafa (Greater Shepparton Council) on 5 February 2025 to discuss the recently completed analysis of the impact of the Area Wide Management, Sterile Insect Technique and the weather of Queensland fruit fly authored by Andrew Jessup
- National Fruit Fly Economic Framework project initiation meeting on 2 July 2025
- National Fruit Fly Economic Analysis Project Planning meeting on 7 November 2025
- Multiple one-on-one conversations with NFFC Research Working Group members and broader research and trade
- Meeting with Cherry Growers Australia
- Meetings regarding preparation of the final report for Exercise Motus (https://www.planthealthaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Ex-Motus-report_public.pdf), a simulation exercise designed to test Australia's preparedness to respond to a detection of *Bactrocera dorsalis* (oriental fruit fly) which is currently an exotic pest to Australia.

Research and Trade focused exchange

During 2025, PHA (through the NFFC) maintained its involvement with the Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee (AFFTAC). During the AFFTAC meeting held on 19 and 20 February 2025, NFFC Manager Stuart Burgess delivered a presentation on the NFFS Strategic Review. Engagement with AFFTAC continues to provide the Council with an invaluable link to technical experts leading the broader state, territory and Commonwealth fruit fly related workplans and ensures ongoing two-way sharing of key initiatives in the fruit fly strategic space.



The Council also continued to network with the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (FASTA) with Council Chair, John Webster, delivering a presentation at the FASTA Symposium held on 17 September 2025. Several Council members including NFFC Manager, Stuart Burgess, also attended the FASTA Symposium (Figure 9).



Figure 9. NFFC members attending the Fresh and Secure Trade Alliance (FASTA) Symposium: John Webster, NFFC independent chair, Dale Williams, Bowen mango grower, Alison McGregor, Australian Table Grape Association, Stuart Burgess, Plant Health Australia, Jessica Lye, Citrus Australia.

