

# Communique

## MEETING 19, 10-11 SEPTEMBER 2019, ADELAIDE

The nineteenth meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council was held in Adelaide on 10-11 September 2019.

### Changes to NFFC membership

The Council farewelled Jon Durham, who has been the independent Chair of the Council since its inception in 2015. Jon's contribution to the Council and in assisting develop the National Fruit Fly Strategy have been significant. He will continue to take an interest in the Council's discussions and its efforts to drive a nationally coordinated approach to fruit fly management. A new Chair has not been announced however, selection processes are underway.

David Moore, who recently retired from Hort Innovation and the Council, has also been a long-standing member and his involvement will be greatly missed. Ms Alison Anderson was welcomed as David's replacement on the Council and the experience she will bring to discussions recognised.

Christina Cook and Sally Chesworth, who recently commenced with Plant Health Australia to take up the roles of Council Manager and Executive Officer respectively were welcomed.

The Council agreed to expand its membership by two members to include eight industry representatives to ensure there is adequate and diverse industry representation at meetings.

### The National Fruit Fly Management Protocols (formerly the Code of Practice)

Australia's National Fruit Fly Management Protocols (the Protocols) were endorsed by Plant Health Committee (PHC) in July 2019. The Protocols are a series of standard operating procedures (SOPs) and supersede the codes of practice for the management of Queensland fruit fly and Medfly. The Department of Agriculture (DA) advised there is an agreed process to enable changes to the SOPs/Protocols. The Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee (AFFTAC) and Plant Health Committee will continue to update and strengthen the Protocols using the agreed change process.

### Regional Workshops

The Council Manager is exploring options for a series of regional fruit fly workshops (similar to the Sterile Insect Technology roadshows that took place in 2015). South Australia advised that it will be holding a fruit fly summit in the first half of 2020. Other options being explored include interstate certification assurance (ICA) arrangements, area wide management, systems approaches, peri-urban management issues as well as grower education workshops on improvements in in-field controls. Suggestions for workshop opportunities would be welcome.



## National Fruit Fly Strategy

A revision of the draft National Fruit Fly Strategy (the Strategy) continues and will involve a language refresh and alignment to current fruit fly initiatives (e.g. the Australian Government's Smart Fruit Fly Management Measure). The Council Manager will engage with all Council members in the coming weeks to seek input to the Strategy and to gather information on regional fruit fly issues and priorities. Broader industry and government consultation will also occur to ensure all stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute.

## National SIT Policy

The DA are developing an internal discussion paper on the application of SIT in Australia. The discussion paper will initially focus on domestic application of SIT policy but further extension to the international discussions on of SIT will be considered. The national SIT policy will provide guidance on the use of SIT to manage fruit fly in Australia.

## Research Roadmap

The Council considered the Research Roadmap for a National Approach to Fruit Fly Management (the Research Roadmap) developed by DA (under the \$16.9 million Smart Fruit Fly Management measure). The Research Roadmap identifies research, development and extension activities that could be funded under the measure to strengthen Australia's fruit fly management system. The Council provided a range of recommendations to the National Biosecurity Committee for consideration at its meeting (24-25 September 2019).

## Next meeting

The next Council meeting (Meeting 20) will be held in Melbourne from 4-5 December 2019. Members will have the option to visit the Steritech irradiation facility.

