

# NFFC Communique

## MEETING 25, 10-11 MARCH 2021

The 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (the Council) was held on 10-11 March 2021. Due to COVID-19 and its ongoing impact on interstate travel, Council members were invited to attend either face-to-face in Canberra or virtually via Microsoft Teams. The meeting had a strategic focus and provided an opportunity for the Council to reflect on Phase 3 of the Council (2018-21) and plan for its' future.

### Current fruit fly issues and trade

The Council considered current fruit fly issues in Australia, including the South Australia and Western Australia fruit fly outbreaks; the Exotic Fruit Flies in the Torres Strait Response Program; and progress being made in current fruit fly research projects.

The Council discussed current trade challenges for fruit fly produce, both internationally and domestically – including perspectives from the Australian Fresh Produce Alliance and the Market Coordination and Strategy area of the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment.

### Progress against the 2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy

The 2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy (the Strategy) and associated 2020-21 Implementation Plan were officially launched in November 2020. The Implementation Plan was developed by the Council to monitor progress against the Strategy and identify gaps that need to be addressed in the national system.

The Council acknowledged the substantial progress made in the first six months of the Strategy which has been a collective effort from many different stakeholders. A few of these achievements include:

- The commissioning of projects for the \$13 Million Research Program for Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly System.
- The development of a draft Policy for Fruit Fly Sterile Insect Technique in relation to trade.
- The development of new trade data packages for flies in table grapes, mandarins, nectarines, apples, plums and strawberries.
- The delivery of a series of workshops with commodity groups to discuss the role of the east-west fruit fly distribution profile in international trade negotiations and potential vulnerabilities.
- The delivery of a series of grower workshops across Australia to learn about 'on-the-ground' fruit fly challenges and priorities.
- The delivery of a national webinar series to raise awareness of national fruit fly activities.



## 2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium

The Council is planning a National Fruit Fly Symposium to be held virtually over three morning sessions on 4-6 May 2021, followed by a series of Think Tanks to be held on 11-13 May 2021. The Symposium will look at Australia's trade and production issues associated with fruit fly and opportunities for building future success.

The Think Tanks will provide an opportunity to consider some of the 'wicked problems' facing Australia's fruit fly system, and will cover the following topics:

- in-field management challenges
- abandoned orchards
- peri-urban threats

More details can be found on the [Prevent Fruit Fly website](#).

## Future of the council

The current funding term for the Council ends in October 2021. In-principle support for the continuation of the Council was acknowledged during the meeting, noting that there are opportunities to make further improvements and add more value for stakeholders.

## Next meeting

The next Council meeting (Meeting 26) will be held in June and will be used to consider key outcomes of the National Fruit Fly Symposium and to develop the 2021-22 Implementation Plan for the Strategy. The location of the meeting will be dependent on COVID-19 and its associated restrictions at that time.

