

NFFC Communique

Meeting 28, 14 December 2021

The 28th meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (the Council) was held on 14th December 2021. Due to COVID-19 and its ongoing impact on interstate travel, Council members attended virtually via Microsoft Teams. Owing to the commencement of picking season, some members were unable to attend.

State of Fruit Fly in Australia

Queensland

Queensland currently has four major research and market access projects underway. All four projects are on track and reaching milestones. Despite COVID-19 disruptions in sourcing equipment and resources, all are due to be completed in the 2022.

Queensland is continuing to implement the National Exotic Fruit Fly in Torres Strait Eradication Program and is currently recruiting a full-time coordinator to manage the program.

Tasmania

Tasmania's Securing Our Borders initiative is now underway in its 3rd year, with increased inspections for pests from October to May each year.

The agency has changed their name to Natural Resources and Environment Tasmania.

Victoria

To support the implementation of the Victorian Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025, three-million-dollars in grants for the area-wide management of Queensland fruit fly in three horticulture regions (Greater Sunraysia, Goulburn-Murray Valley and Yarra Valley regions) has been announced.

In research, the state has successfully released various species of fruit fly parasitoids in both metro and regional areas of Victoria to assess the local dispersal and establishment.

New South Wales

The routine trapping for exotic fruit fly including Oriental fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly is continuing with data being captured live using Trapbase allowing a seamless integration of data into AUSPestCheck™.

There are several projects being undertaken by the NSW fruit fly team, led by Dr. Polychronis Rempoulakis, these are meeting their milestones and are on track to be delivered on time.

Welcoming a New Manager

PHA have completed recruitment of a new Manager of the NFFC and have welcomed Stuart Burgess to the full-time position.

Stuart brings professional expertise in industry leadership in trade and biosecurity related programs with wide ranging experience in whole of industry leadership, management, and development at national, state level and business levels, across a broad spectrum of Government, industry, and commercial sectors. He has held previous roles as the CEO Fruit Growers Tasmania and Fund Manager and Industry Services Manager in Hort Innovation. Stuart brings a rich understanding of biosecurity particularly as it relates to trade and bilateral trade operations and a strong and long-term connection to the Australian horticultural sector.

Phase 3 Summary

In the last twelve months the Council have gained momentum in progressing key issues. The Council



considered, and advised on national fruit fly priorities, improved engagement with stakeholders, and an increased communications presence.

The result of the National Fruit Fly Council's comprehensive engagement and strategy setting – as well as demonstrated delivery against this strategy - is that the Council has cemented its reputation as a national voice on fruit fly. The momentum gained on national issues through the symposium, consistent papers raising issues and awareness to Plant Health Committee and National Biosecurity Committee, hosting regular and consistent forums for information exchange with stakeholders, have demonstrated that the Council is a beacon for strategic direction.

The impact of this project 'Phase 3 of the National Fruit Fly Council' will provide a foundation for even stronger outcomes from Phase 4.

Fruit Fly Projects

Fruit Fly Specific Agrichemical Issues for Horticulture

The Council welcomed a presentation from AKC Consulting around their PHA commissioned report on fruit fly insecticides & the potential regulatory threats.

The study seeks to provide a perspective on the mounting regulatory pressures coming to bear on insecticides currently approved for in-crop fruit fly (Tephritidae) management in Australia. While the focus of the analysis was primarily to highlight current regulatory trends, and their impacts internationally on the authorisations of fruit fly insecticides, it also sought to highlight the potential relevance of these trends from an Australian regulatory context.

Council heard a summary on the findings of the report outlining that there are several insecticides at risk from regulatory pressures in the short to medium-term, i.e., the next 3 to 5 years.

The full report is available for downloading on the [Prevent Fruit Fly](#) website.

Phase 4

The current NFFC contract (HA 18000 Phase 3 of the National Fruit Fly Council) will conclude in December 2021. Plant Health Australia submitted our collective response to the Hort Innovation Request for Proposal (RFP) for Phase 4 of the National Fruit Fly Council (FF 20000).

Council Meetings

The Council endorsed a 2022 meeting schedule, these dates are subject to change and the location of the meeting will be dependent on COVID-19 and its associated restrictions at that time.

Meeting Number	Proposed Date/s
Meeting 29	Tuesday 15 th / Wednesday 16 th March 2022
Meeting 30	Tuesday 14 th / Wednesday 15 th June 2022
Meeting 31	Tuesday 20 th / Wednesday 21 st September 2022
Meeting 32	Tuesday 13 th / Wednesday 14 th December 2022

