

National Fruit Fly Council – Phase 3 Annual Report

October 2020

Summary

The National Fruit Fly Council (the Council) brings together state government representatives, the Australian Government, horticultural industry representatives, and Hort Innovation to ensure Australia maintains a strategic outlook on managing fruit flies that threaten Australian horticultural production. By taking a view across the full range of fruit fly management challenges, monitoring progress on key activities, and helping to coordinate activities across the country, the Council works to drive the vision that fruit flies will not be a constraint to sustainable production or a significant barrier to national and international market access.

The Council maintains a strong advisory relationship with regulatory decision-makers such as Plant Health Committee (PHC) and the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC), reporting on Council meeting outcomes and providing advice on key national fruit fly issues. The formalisation of an NBC member as Council Chair has further strengthened these links. A particular focus in 2020 has been increased engagement with growers, grower groups, and peak industry bodies and an expansion of Council membership to broaden the range of views represented at Council discussions.

This improved collaboration has culminated in the development of a new National Fruit Fly Strategy for 2020-25 which has been endorsed by all key stakeholders. The new Strategy and associated annual Implementation Plan for 2020-21 form a solid foundation for cooperation and coordination to strengthen the national fruit fly system. The Council will use these documents to monitor progress, identify gaps that need to be addressed, and advise stakeholders and decision-makers on key findings. The Council would like to recognise all those who have contributed to the development of this important initiative.

Other key focus areas for the Council during the past twelve months include:

- Monitoring activities being delivered under the 2018 *Intergovernmental Agreement on Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System* to improve harmonisation of fruit fly management across Australia. This included providing advice to decision-makers on projects nominated for funding under a \$13M government-funded research and development program.
- Evaluating the risks posed by outbreaks of Queensland fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly in several locations across Australia.
- Considering the future of the Western Australian Mediterranean Sterile Insect Technique facility and recommending there be national contributions towards this facility to maintain it as a tool to support eradication of any Medfly outbreaks outside of WA.
- Developing a project proposal for the investigation of a business-case for sustainable funding options for national fruit fly activities.
- Developing a progress summary of the 2008 *National Fruit Fly Strategy* to provide context for the Council to build a new National Fruit Fly Strategy.



- Undertaking multiple initiatives to improve engagement with fruit fly stakeholders, including:
 - inviting industry groups to Council meetings for an information exchange
 - incorporating research sessions into Council meetings
 - initiating regional workshops in Bundaberg in March
 - commencing a series of webinars to raise awareness of national fruit fly activities
 - delivering industry workshops to discuss the importance of upholding the East-West distribution profile
 - delivering short workshops across Australia to learn about 'on-the-ground' fruit fly challenges and priorities, and
 - increasing the Council's online presence through the Prevent Fruit Fly website, newsletter, and twitter account.

The National Fruit Fly Council project

The project is funded by the Hort Frontiers Fruit Fly Fund, part of the Hort Frontiers strategic partnership initiative developed by Hort Innovation, with co-investment from Plant Health Australia, state and territory governments and contributions from the Australian Government.

The objective of the project is to continue to monitor and drive progress against the National Fruit Fly Strategy, revise and update the Strategy as needed, and work towards the vision that fruit flies are no longer a constraint to sustainable production or a significant barrier to national and international market access. As the Council is not funded to directly invest in fruit fly related activities the major role for the Council is to work to influence and coordinate fruit fly management activities, including RD&E, policy directions and communications.

The project continues funding for the Council which includes industry representatives, government agencies, Hort Innovation and Plant Health Australia to consider national priorities for improving fruit fly management and opportunities for driving progress against these priorities.

The Council Terms of Reference are at [Attachment A](#).

Key deliverables

National Fruit Fly Strategy and Implementation Plan

The 2020-2025 National Fruit Fly Strategy has been endorsed by the Council, fruit fly affected industry members of Plant Health Australia, PHC and NBC. The Strategy has also been provided to the Plant Health Australia board, Hort Innovation Board, the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and Agriculture Ministers Forum (AGMIN) for noting. The Strategy will be launched at the next Council meeting on 11-12 November 2020 and promoted via the Council's online media platforms and through engagement activities such as the 2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium and its associated workshops.

An annual Implementation Plan has been developed for the 2020-21 financial year and will accompany the Strategy. This Plan includes planned and resourced fruit fly activities from across Australia and will guide the Council's monitoring of progress against the Strategy, forming the basis of its work program.





National Fruit Fly Council webinar series

One of the outputs of the Council Phase 3 contract is the delivery of a series of regional fruit fly workshops. The purpose of the workshops is to empower regional stakeholders by sharing relevant and up to date information on national fruit fly management activities and research, and practical and regionally appropriate practices for the management and/or prevention of fruit fly.

The intention is to hold at least 12 workshops across a selection of major regional growing areas of Australia by October 2021. The workshop program commenced in Bundaberg in March 2020 where the Council partnered with Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers and the senior entomologist from Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to deliver the workshop. The workshop provided an overview of the national fruit fly system, recent research outcomes supporting market access, and an exchange of information on local fruit fly issues. Attendees were particularly interested in issues such as research on the winter window in Bundaberg, alternative in-field management options, systems approaches and effective trapping of female fruit flies.





Image: Bundaberg fruit fly workshop – The National Fruit Fly Council worked with Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers to deliver the workshop. From left to right: Rod Turner (Plant Health Australia (PHA)), Satendra Kumar (NSW Department of Primary Industries), Lloyd Klumpp (NFFC Chair), Mike Ashton (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF)), Sally Chesworth (PHA), Bree Grima (BFVG), Christina Cook (Manager, NFFC), Peter Leach (QDAF) and Kylie Jackson (BFVG).

Due to COVID 19, the Council is presently unable to hold additional face-to-face regional workshops and has commenced a series of webinars to raise awareness of national fruit fly activities. The first of the series, a webinar on the Research Program was held on 17th August 2020. The webinar was attended by 100 government and industry stakeholders and provided attendees with information on the Australian Government's \$16.9M Smart Fruit Fly Management measure and three of the projects funded under the Research Program for Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly System.

The second webinar was held on 25th September 2020. The webinar was attended by 77 government and industry stakeholders and provided attendees with information on the Sterile Insect Technique for Mediterranean Fruit Fly and Queensland Fruit Fly.

The third webinar was held on 26th October 2020 with the theme of Phytosanitary Irradiation. This webinar attracted 92 attendees and provided a 'supply chain' view of the use of irradiation as an end-point treatment for fruit fly, hearing perspectives from a grower, the Steritech irradiation provider, a retailer, and the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (DAWE).

The Council is working with a number of stakeholders to organise future webinars, with themes including the Interstate Certification Assurance Scheme and Integrated Pest Management. The intention is to continue to deliver online workshops for the remainder of the year and hopefully recommence face-to-face workshops in 2021.





National Research Priorities

In 2019 DAWE developed a *Research Roadmap for a National Approach to Fruit Fly Management* to guide the selection of projects to be funded from the \$13M Research Program under the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly Management System*. The Council considered the Roadmap at its December 2019 meeting and provided recommendations to PHC on its content and relative priorities.

In February 2020 the Council held an extraordinary meeting to consider six project proposals that had been submitted for funding under the Research Program. Researchers attended this meeting and provided an overview of projects and an opportunity for Council to ask further questions. Council then assessed each project against agreed criteria and made recommendations on suitable projects to PHC for its endorsement and progression to funding decision-makers.

Three projects were commissioned (*Phenology demography and distribution of Australia's fruit flies; A national biocontrol program to manage pest fruit flies in Australia; and Efficacy data to support methyl bromide disinfestation treatments against fruit flies*) however, there was still an amount of unallocated funding.

In July 2020 the Council held another extraordinary meeting to consider proposals for three concepts for the remaining funds (the effects of packaging on post-harvest treatments, the expansion of the *national biocontrol program to manage pest fruit flies in Australia* project to include work on biocontrol of Medfly and research on mitochondrial DNA and ribosomal ITS markets for fruit fly). Council assessed each project proposal against the agreed criteria and made subsequent recommendations to PHC.

National Fruit Fly Council Communications and Media Engagement

A Council Communications Strategy, Content Calendar and Schedule were agreed by the Council at the December 2019 meeting. These documents guide the communications and media engagement activities for the Council.


The Council Manager and Council Executive Officer meet regularly with the fruit fly stakeholder engagement area in DAWE (Plant Health Policy, Plant Biosecurity Division) to identify areas of collaboration. This has proven to be beneficial, for example in the development and distribution of the article on the *Australian Government's \$16.9M Smart Fruit Fly Management measure* and the organisation and delivery of the webinar on the *Research Program for Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly System*.




Between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020, 11 Prevent Fruit Fly e-newsletters were distributed. During this period, the number of newsletter subscribers has increased from 75 to 397.

Prevent Fruit Fly Newsletter

September 2020





A note from the Manager

Spring is here and so far the wet and warm conditions in many parts of Australia are signalling ideal conditions for fruit fly populations. In this environment it was pleasing to hear about the work being done on the sterile insect technique in Australia for both Queensland and Mediterranean fruit fly during our recent webinar. These national webinars are proving to be a great way to share information on topical national issues and we plan to continue to run these until at least the end of 2020.

This month I also shared an update with Australian Mango Industry Association members on recently commissioned government research on fruit fly populations, fumigation efficacy and biological controls for fruit fly.

Christina Cook
Manager, National Fruit Fly Council

Sterile fruit flies contribute to reduction in Queensland fruit fly population

Hort Innovation

Releases of sterile fruit flies at two Australian locations have significantly reduced Queensland fruit fly numbers. The pilot, which ran from September 2019 to mid-April 2020 in Hillston, NSW, and Cobram, Victoria, involved releasing sterile fruit flies each week from a plane.

[Read more](#)

Queensland fruit fly in Perth's western suburbs

WA DPIRD

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) is currently responding to an outbreak of Queensland fruit fly in Perth's western suburbs. The latest information about this outbreak is available on the DPIRD website.

[Read more](#)

Visting SA's regions? Leave your fruit at home

PIRSA

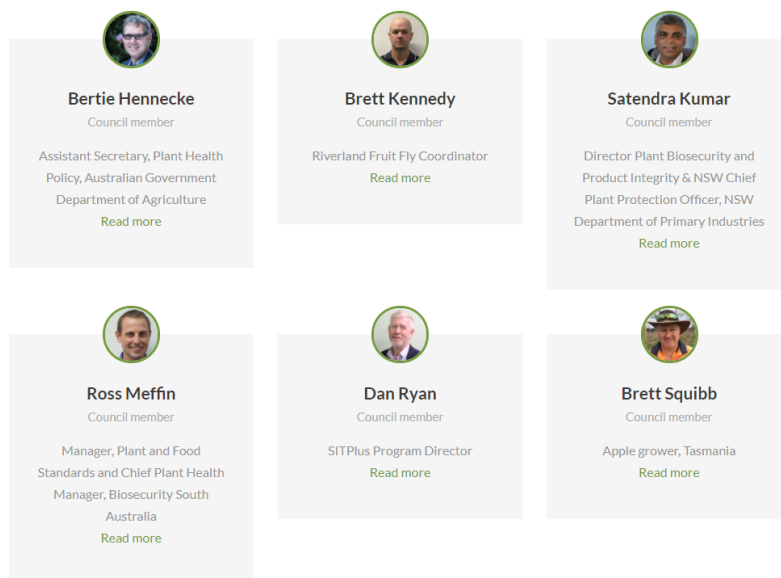
South Australia has restrictions on what fruit, vegetables and plant products can be brought into the state. Whether you are travelling from interstate into SA, or travelling within SA to the Riverland, it is important to plan your trip and be prepared.

[Read more](#)



Since October 2019 the website has been updated with the Council's Annual Summary 2019, member biographies, new Terms of Reference, and meeting communiques. During this period, 14 news items have also posted to the website. Between 31 October 2019 and 30 September 2020, the website had 46,361 page views and 24,080 users.





Bertie Hennecke

Council member

Assistant Secretary, Plant Health
Policy, Australian Government
Department of Agriculture
[Read more](#)

Brett Kennedy

Council member

Riverland Fruit Fly Coordinator
[Read more](#)

Satendra Kumar

Council member

Director Plant Biosecurity and
Product Integrity & NSW Chief
Plant Protection Officer, NSW
Department of Primary Industries
[Read more](#)

Ross Meffin

Council member

Manager, Plant and Food
Standards and Chief Plant Health
Manager, Biosecurity South
Australia
[Read more](#)

Dan Ryan

Council member

SITPlus Program Director
[Read more](#)

Brett Squibb

Council member

Apple grower, Tasmania
[Read more](#)

Communiques from the National Fruit Fly Council

Following each meeting, the Council releases a communique about the topics discussed at the meeting.

[Meeting 23, 26-27 August 2020, Online](#)

[Meeting 22, 3 June & 10 June, Online](#)

[Meeting 21, 5 March 2020, Brisbane](#)

[Meeting 20, 4 December 2019, Melbourne](#)

[Meeting 19, 10-11 September 2019, Adelaide](#)

[Meeting 20, 4 December 2019, Melbourne](#)

[Meeting 21, 5 March 2020, Brisbane](#)

Annual summaries from the National Fruit Fly Council

At the end of each year the National Fruit Fly Council releases a summary of their work over the last 12 months.

[Annual Summary 2019](#)

National Fruit Fly Council webinars

In 2020, the National Fruit Fly Council held the following webinars:

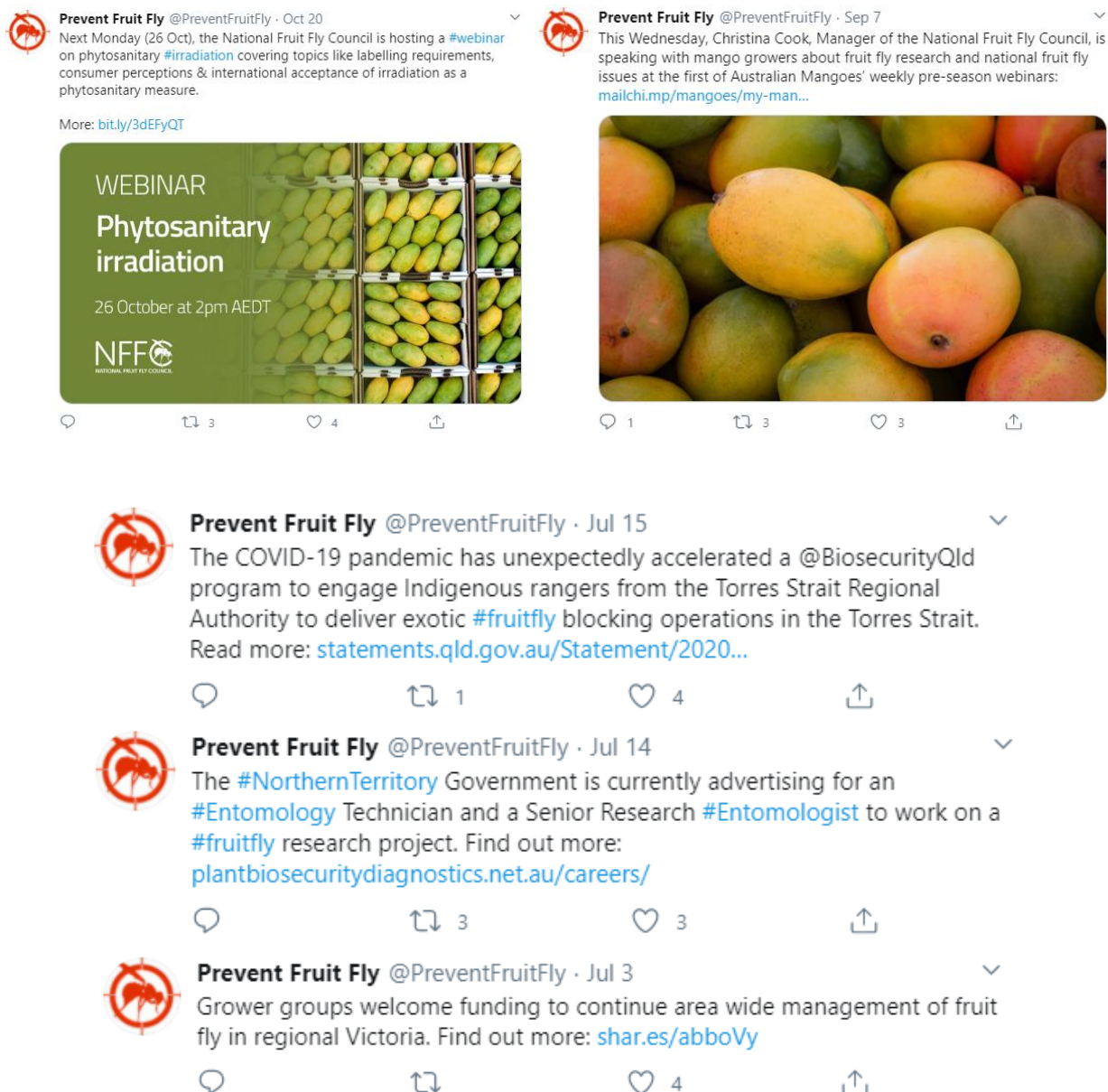
- So you think you know SIT? (25 September 2020) – [Download presentations](#)
- Research to strengthen Australia fruit fly system webinar (17 August 2020) – [Download information package](#)
- National Fruit Fly Council 2020-25 Information Session (3 July 2020) – [Download presentation](#)

Prevent Fruit Fly twitter account

Between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020, 58 tweets were shared on the Prevent Fruit Fly Twitter feed which received a total of 58,273 impressions.

During this period, the number of twitter followers more than doubled from 102 followers to 265 followers.





Industry articles

Since October 2019 five fruit fly articles have been written and distributed to relevant industry magazines. These articles were on:

- area wide management for Sterile Insect Technique
- the exotic fruit fly eradication program in the Torres Strait
- regional fruit fly workshops
- the Australian Government's \$16.9M Smart Fruit Fly Management measure
- the notification process following a detection of fruit fly larvae in produce sold interstate

A sixth industry article on *fruit fly unity across State, national and local groups* was jointly authored with the Goulburn-Murray Valley Fruit Fly Governance Group.

To help improve our relevance, approximately 10-15 industry magazines were contacted to find out what topics are of interest to their readers. Using the responses and information available on the Prevent Fruit Fly website, the Council identified a number of fruit fly information gaps. The Council commissioned



communications provider AgCommunicators to develop a number of articles to fill these gaps. These articles include information on fruit fly management, trapping, chemicals, Mediterranean fruit fly, and fruit fly facts. The Council has developed a plan for the release of these articles which will commence before the end of the year.

BIOSECURITY, RESEARCH & POLICY

The notification process following a detection of fruit fly larvae in produce sold interstate

If you trade mangoes interstate, you may have wondered what would happen if low fruit fly larvae were found in one of your consignments at its final destination.

Robbie Turner, Chair of the Subcommittee on Domestic Quarantine and Market Access, said there is a national agreed protocol for reporting and investigating incidents like the detection of low fruit fly larvae in produce consigned to most interstate quarantine requirements.

The process is outlined in the Rules for Quarantine of the Quarantine Code of Practice (QCP) and the Quarantine Code of Practice (QCP) for the interstate trade of fruit fly larvae.

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THE PROCESS

As soon as possible after the incident reporting and investigation process followed by state and territory governments after the detection of low fruit fly larvae in four main steps:

1. Confirm amount of time allocated to each step and the process generally happens quickly so that detection or suspect infestation can be dealt with as soon as possible.

Step 1: Confirm fruit fly was found.

"If a suspect detection of low fruit fly larvae in your consignment in another state or territory with quarantine restrictions in place for the pest, the first step is to inform the importer in the fruit fly which has been found."

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PAGE 10 HANDED MATTERS

— General News —

Keeping out exotic fruit flies

By Plant Health Australia

The Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Exclusion Program has been running successfully since the mid-1990s, and is permanent to protecting the mainland from exotic fruit fly incursions.

During the National Fruit Fly Council's most recent meeting in Brisbane on 13 March 2020, the Council invited Queensland-based industry representatives to a meet and greet. The industry attendees participated in a range of discussions with the Council including one led by the Queensland Chief Plant Health Manager about the Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Exclusion Program.

Excluding exotic fruit fly incursions in Torres Strait prevents their establishment on the Australian mainland saving industries and governments a significant amount of money and resources. For example, the last time exotic fruit fly (Drosophila dorsalis, then known as Asian papaya fruit fly) was detected on mainland Australia it took three years and cost \$10 million to eradicate, with an estimated cost to industry of \$100 million.

The Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Exclusion Program 2020 outlines the strategy for excluding exotic fruit flies from the region and builds on the approach implemented since 1996 under the Long-term Contingency Strategy for Exotic Fruit Fly in Torres Strait. It aims to stop the annual incursion of exotic fruit fly species (Drosophila dorsalis, Drosophila dorsalis and Drosophila dorsalis) using a program of bait spraying, trapping and male sterilisation blocking.

The program is on track to achieve eradication again this year. As of 11 March 2020, 94 Drosophila dorsalis, 12 D. dorsalis and 20 Zaprionus indianus have been intercepted during the current incursion season (November 2019 to May 2020). These interceptions have resulted in response activity on the islands in Torres Strait which is a fully typical pattern of detection and response for this time of the year.

Council's goal is to achieve eradication again this year. As of 11 March 2020, 94 Drosophila dorsalis, 12 D. dorsalis and 20 Zaprionus indianus have been intercepted during the current incursion season (November 2019 to May 2020). These interceptions have resulted in response activity on the islands in Torres Strait which is a fully typical pattern of detection and response for this time of the year.

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More information

More information: www.paph.gov.au and fruitflycouncil.org.au



A female oriental fruit fly (Drosophila dorsalis), Image: Scott Beaton, Wikimedia Commons

According to Australia's Chief Plant Health Officer, this was an important program for the industry because if these exotic fruit fly species became endemic in mainland Australia, the industry would have been in a very poor position.

"They may not be a major production constraint for avocado growers, but they would certainly damage interstate and export trade of avocados," Mr Tye said.

"As we expand our export markets into countries like Japan that have phytosanitary requirements, maintaining our pest status in Australia is critical. If we were to have an incursion of an exotic fruit fly, then our current market access protocols come into question."

"As an example, our current protocol for Australian avocados to Japan requires phytosanitary conditions for Mediterranean fruit fly. If Western Australia suddenly had a new fruit fly of quarantine concern for Japan, our current protocol would immediately be ineffective as it only deals with Mediterranean fruit fly. Trade would stop immediately until protocol amendments could be negotiated or the pest was eradicated."

What is funded under the Smart Fruit Fly Management measure?

National Fruit Fly Council

The National Fruit Fly Council brings together governments, growers and research funders to oversee implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and to drive delivery of a cost-effective and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies across Australia.

In November 2018, the National Fruit Fly Council welcomed the Australian Government's announcement of the \$10 million Smart Fruit Fly Management measure. The measure acknowledges the importance of managing fruit fly to protect Australia's horticulture industry and supports maintaining a strong, effective and harmonised fruit fly management system. The Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is leading the management of the measure which supports a wide range of activities that fall into the priority areas:

1. Systems Capability
2. National Policy Development
3. Technical & Scientific Advice
4. Communication & Extension
5. Research & Development

For example, to improve system capability the measure supports the modernisation of Australia's National Fruit Fly Management Protocol. The protocols include a series of guidelines and references that set the standards for the national management of fruit fly. This covers the Australian Government can provide assistance to international trading partners that Australia's management of fruit fly is coordinated, consistent and meets international obligations.

The measure also supports the development of national policies for fruit fly management. One of these is a national policy for use of the sterile insect technique (SIT) in fruit fly management. It will outline principles to assist state and territory governments to consistently apply SIT in Australia.

In the technical and scientific advice area, a technical feasibility and economic analysis for the evaluation of Mediterranean fruit fly from Western Australia being undertaken by the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics.

As well as promoting the measure and its achievements, activities in the communication and extension area aim ensure that all participants are aware of their shared responsibility in strengthening Australia's fruit fly management system.

Finally, the measure establishes a research program to fund research, development and extension activities that strengthen Australia's fruit fly management system. The total funding for the research program is \$25 million, comprising \$2.5 million from the Australian Government and \$22.5 million co-contributed by the state and territory governments. Projects that will be funded under this program will be announced soon.

The National Fruit Fly Council believes the activities supported by the measure will play a vital role in strengthening Australia's fruit fly management system. The Council will continue to support and collaborate with all stakeholders to progress work in each of these priority areas.



National Fruit Fly Symposium

A small working group is organising a 2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium to be hosted by the Council. The Symposium will be based around the National Fruit Fly Strategy and seek to develop a shared understanding of the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders and key national opportunities and challenges coming up over the next 5 years. The Symposium will also seek to build a shared vision for the future and identify priorities for the next 1-5 years to help strengthen the national fruit fly system.

A series of 10-15 online workshops are being held in October and November 2020 to create space for conversations and to share different views and perceptions for the national fruit fly system. Workshop topics include:

- a) living with established fruit fly
- b) maintaining pest free areas
- c) risks of minor/exotic species
- d) collaborating on fruit fly research needs.

National Fruit Fly Council meetings

The Council has met six times during the last twelve months, four normal meetings and two extraordinary meetings. Of those meetings, three were held face-to-face and the remaining three were held virtually due to COVID-19.



- **Meeting 20: 4 December 2019 (Melbourne)**

- 2008 National Fruit Fly Strategy – Progress Summary
- Revision of the National Fruit Fly Strategy
- Smart Fruit Fly Management measures – update
- Government Research Program – governance and priorities
- Information Session: Phenology and Ecology of Fruit Fly
- Future of WA Medfly SIT facility
- Regional Workshop planning
- Tour of the new Steritech Irradiation facility in Melbourne (photo below)



Image: The National Fruit Fly Council visited the new Steritech Irradiation facility in Mickleham, Victoria. From left to right: Darryl Hardie (Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development), Andrew Bishop (Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment), Lloyd Klumpp (NFFC Chair), Satendra Kumar (NSW Department of Primary Industries), Mike Ashton (Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries), Christina Cook (NFFC Manager), Greg Fraser (former PHA CEO), Rosa Crnov (Victoria Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions) and Rod Turner (PHA).

- **Extraordinary meeting: 17 February 2020 (Melbourne)**

- Assessment of project proposals for government Research Program.
- Recommendations to Plant Health Committee on suitability of projects and potential research gaps.

- **Meeting 21: 5 March 2020 (Brisbane)**

- New Terms of Reference and industry membership
- Draft National Fruit Fly Strategy
- Research Program update



- SIT Policy
- Australia's East-West fruit fly distribution profile
- Future of WA Medfly SIT facility
- Process to progress sustainable funding options
- Detections in commercial fruit
- Research programs: QDAF and Hort Innovation
- Torres Strait Exotic Fruit Fly Response Program



Exotic fruit flies a focus at National Fruit Fly Council meet and greet

During the National Fruit Fly Council's most recent meeting in Brisbane on 5 March 2020, the Council invited Queensland-based industry representatives to a meet and greet. The industry attendees participated in a range of discussions with the Council including one led by the Queensland Chief Plant Health Manager about the Exotic Fruit Fly in the Torres Strait Eradication Program.

• Meeting 22 Session 1: 3 June 2020 (Virtual)

- National Fruit Fly Strategy and 2020-21 Implementation Plan
- East-West Fruit Fly Distribution
 - Current fruit fly outbreaks
 - Future funding for the Medfly SIT Facility
 - Simulation Exercise update
- Intergovernmental Research Program update
- Sustainable funding for national fruit fly management – Project Proposal
- Contingency planning for exotic fruit fly – Concept proposal
- Communications

• Meeting 22 Session 2: 10 June 2020 (Virtual)

- ABARES Analysis update
 - Medfly eradication



- Pest Free Areas
- Sterile Insect Technique – SIT Report and policy
- Sterile Insect Technique – SITPlus program future directions
- RapidAIM update – region-wide surveillance grids

New faces on the National Fruit Fly Council

The Council has recently expanded its industry membership. During the June meetings, Brett Kennedy and Brett Squibb were welcomed to the Council. David Daniels has also recently accepted an invitation to join the Council. Find out more about the Council members below.



Brett Kennedy

Riverland Fruit Fly Coordinator

Brett has spent most of his life involved in horticulture in the Riverland and has strong links to the Riverland's horticulture community. He has held the position of Riverland Fruit Fly Coordinator for the past 18 months. In this role, Brett provides advice and assistance to growers on the prevention and, in the case of an outbreak, eradication of fruit fly

Brett Squibb

Tasmanian apple grower

Brett is a third generation fruit grower. His family has been farming in north-west Tasmania for over 80 years. Brett also has first hand experience with fruit flies. In 2018, a fruit fly outbreak occurred only two kilometres from his farm. By joining the Council, Brett hopes to bring a growers perspective and help alleviate the stress of the unknown for farmers.





David Daniels

**General Manager (Market Development),
Citrus Australia**

David is currently General Manager (Market Development) at Citrus Australia. He also chairs the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area Governance Committee, and is a member of the Horticulture Export Industry Consultative Committee (Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment) and Hort Innovation's Industry Trade Advisory Panel.

- **Extraordinary meeting: 14 July 2020 (Virtual)**
 - Assessment of project proposals for the remaining funding under the government Research Program.
 - Recommendations to Plant Health Committee on suitability of projects.
- **Meeting 23 Session 1: 26 August 2020 (Virtual)**
 - Update east-west fruit fly distribution
 - Trade impacts workshops
 - Current fruit fly outbreaks
 - Update on funding for the Medfly SIT Facility
 - Update sustainable funding for national fruit fly activities
 - Update National Fruit Fly Strategy and Implementation Plan
 - Industry feedback
 - Update Intergovernmental Research Program
 - National Fruit Fly Symposium and associated workshops
 - Communications and Regional Workshops
- **Meeting 23 Session 2: 27 August 2020 (Virtual)**
 - Sterile Insect Technique Policy
 - SITPlus program



- Macquarie University Fruit Fly Research Program
- Stocktake of national fruit fly activities since the 2018 IGA

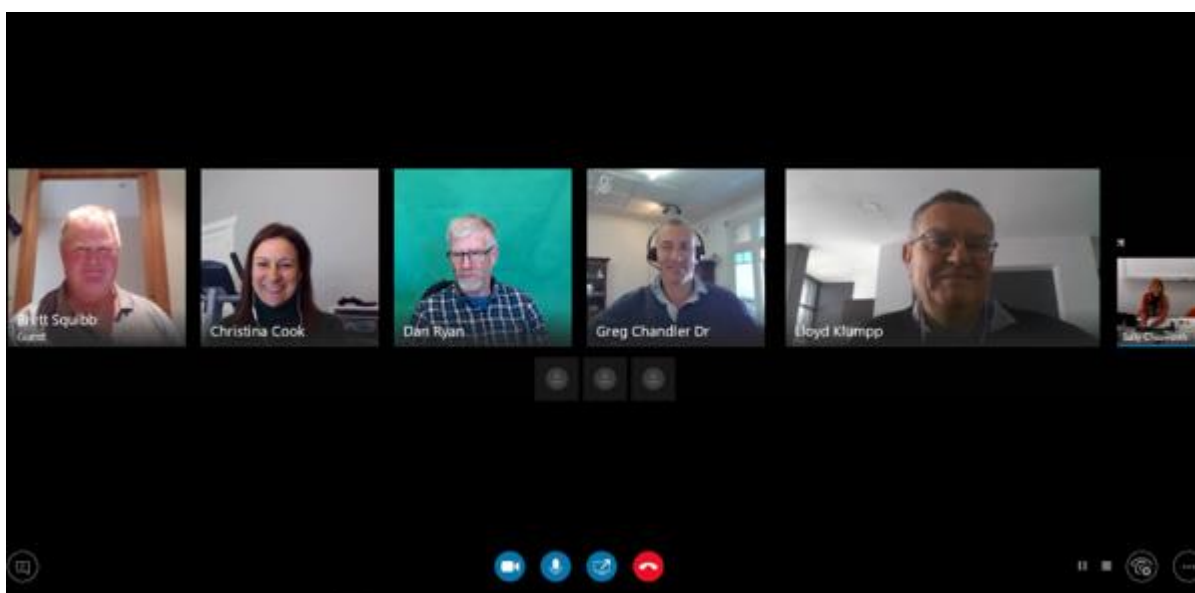


Image: Meeting 23 Session 2 of the National Fruit Fly Council. From left to right: Brett Squibb (Tasmanian apple grower), Christina Cook (NFFC Manager), Dan Ryan (SITPlus Program Director), Greg Chandler (Hort Innovation), Lloyd Klumpp (NFFC Chair), Sally Chesworth (NFFC Executive Officer)

Over the last 12 months, the Council has also sought to progress several key issues including:

- **Raising awareness of the role of the East-West fruit fly distribution profile in market access for all growers.** The Council has held multiple workshops with industry stakeholders to discuss the value of the East-West fruit fly distribution profile in international trade negotiations. Information on the distribution profile will be collated and shared with key stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of maintaining pest freedom for Medfly in the eastern states and Qfly in Western Australia.
- **Exploring options for future funding for the WA Medfly SIT facility.** The Council has considered longer-term funding options for the facility and provided advice on the issue to key decision makers to ensure the facility can continue to run and support the East-West distribution profile.
- **Considering sustainable funding options for fruit fly.** The Council has developed a project proposal to guide the development of a business case to explore sustainable funding for national fruit fly activities. The NBC will be considering funding for the project proposal.
- **Providing advice to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) on the two fruit fly studies they are undertaking;** an assessment of the technical and economic feasibility of eradicating Medfly from Australia and a benefit cost analysis of maintaining the Riverland and Tasmanian fruit fly Pest Free Areas.
- **Providing input to the national policy for Sterile Insect Technique.** DAWE is developing a national policy for the use of Sterile Insect Technique for fruit fly. The Council is working with DAWE to review and provide input to the development of the policy.



Key Outcomes

In the last twelve months there has been a concerted effort to progress key issues within the Council, consider and advise on national fruit fly priorities, improve Council engagement with stakeholders, and increase communications presence.

The Council has maintained a strong advisory relationship with PHC which reports through to national decision-makers on the NBC. This has been evident in the role that Council has played in advising the Committee on project proposals for the governments fruit fly Research Program, providing advice on longer-term funding options for the WA Medfly SIT Facility, providing advice on sustainable funding for the national fruit fly system and in regular reporting between the two groups. This relationship has been strengthened by the presence of an NBC member as Chair of the Council.

Initiatives such as the national webinar series, the industry East-West workshops and the grower workshops are increasing the Council's reach to stakeholders and facilitating partnerships across the national fruit fly system.

Initiatives such as local industry attendance at meetings, information sessions on research projects, and increased engagement with regional grower groups have served to better inform the Council on a range of fruit fly issues and brought into focus the challenges for domestic and export trade. This has also provided insight into meeting the differing communications needs across stakeholders which will continue to be a priority for the Council.

Looking to the year ahead, it will be important for the Council to continue to build on these relationships and ensure there is adequate and appropriate representation in fruit fly discussions. The Council will be guided in these activities through monitoring progress against the 2020-21 Implementation Plan and seeking cooperation to address challenges and capitalise on opportunities for the delivery of the new National Fruit Fly Strategy.



Terms of Reference

1.0 Rationale

The National Fruit Fly Council brings together governments, growers and research funders to oversee implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and to drive delivery of a cost-effective and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies across Australia.

The Council provides leadership and advice on strategic policy and RD&E issues about fruit fly to a range of stakeholders including the National Biosecurity Committee, Plant Health Committee, Hort Innovation, industry and the community.

2.0 Role and functions

The role and functions of the Council are to:

- Coordinate and provide leadership for fruit fly efforts across Australia, promoting a shared responsibility among key stakeholders for strengthening and harmonising the Australian fruit fly management system
- Maintain the National Fruit Fly Strategy to present a contemporary view of the direction and key activities necessary to strengthen the capability, capacity and resilience of Australia's fruit fly management system and for maximising outcomes from RD&E investments
- Advise on the contribution of proposed fruit fly research to the advancement of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and engage with research groups to understand and stocktake research activities
- Advise on strategic fruit fly management issues and activities, promoting consistency with international standards, minimisation of duplication, and support for Australia's market access opportunities
- Oversee the implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy, including reviewing and reporting on progress to stakeholders
- Develop and implement a National Fruit Fly Council communications strategy
- Engage with relevant industry, government, research and community stakeholders to develop positions that reflect the national interests in fruit fly management that are integrated into the national biosecurity system
- Report to Plant Health Committee and Hort Innovation.

3.0 Scope and limitations

The Council is not a decision making body and is not authorised to spend or commit funds.

The Council is not responsible for setting or approving research initiatives, however, its advice will be considered in the development of those initiatives.



4.0 Membership

The Council shall be comprised of:

Organisation	Name	Title
Chair	Lloyd Klumpp	General Manager, Biosecurity Tasmania
Industry	Steve Burdette	Technical Manager, Nutrano Produce Group
Industry	David Daniels	General Manager, Citrus Australia
Industry	Tom Eastlake	President, Cherry Growers Australia. Cherry grower, Young NSW
Industry	Brett Kennedy	Riverland Fruit Fly Coordinator
Industry	Brett Squibb	Apple grower, Spreyton, Tas
Industry	Mark Wilkinson	Stonefruit grower, Maida Vale WA
Industry	Dale Williams	Fruit grower, Bowen, Qld
Industry	Joelene Williams	Greater Sunraysia PFA Industry Development Committee. Stonefruit grower, Swan Hill Vic.
Hort Innovation	Alison Anderson	General Manager, Research and Development
Hort Innovation	Dan Ryan	SITplus Program Director
Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment	Bertie Hennecke	Assistant Secretary, Plant Health Policy Branch
New South Wales Department of Primary Industries	Satendra Kumar	Chief Plant Protection Officer, Director - Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity
Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Mike Ashton	Chief Plant Health Manager, General Manager - Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity, Biosecurity Queensland
South Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regions	Ross Meffin	General Manager - Plant and Food Standards, Biosecurity SA
Tasmania Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment,	Andrew Bishop	Chief Plant Health Manager, Biosecurity Tasmania,



Victoria Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources	Rosa Crnov	Chief Plant Health Officer, Agriculture Victoria
Western Australia Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development	Sonya Broughton	Chief Plant Health Manager, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, WA
Plant Health Australia	Sally Chesworth	Executive Officer, National Fruit Fly Council, Plant Health Australia
Plant Health Australia	Christina Cook	Manager, National Fruit Fly Council, Plant Health Australia
Plant Health Australia	Rod Turner	General Manager, Partnerships

Chairperson

The Council will be chaired by Lloyd Klumpp. Meetings will be convened by the Chair and supported by the manager of the Council.

Member responsibilities

The role of members is to:

- Attend regular meetings as required (four per year) and actively participating in the Council's work
- Build and maintain relationships with government, relevant community stakeholder groups, affected industries and national forums to fulfil the functions of the Council
- Consider: national and international trends; best practice; current industry, government and community capability and experience; scientific knowledge; practicalities; and public opinion
- Actively seek to understand the different perspectives and needs across geographic areas and commodity groups and incorporate these into advice made in the national interest.
- Advise on the health of the national fruit fly system and issues that need to be addressed to implement the National Fruit Fly Strategy
- Champion participation and solutions to emerging national fruit fly issues within the national biosecurity system.

5.0 Executive Support

Executive support will be provided by Plant Health Australia under the supervision of the manager of the Council and will include the following responsibilities:

- Organise meetings, prepare and circulate agendas and minutes
- Prepare and circulate background, discussion or information papers
- Record and prepare a summary of the meeting



- Prepare correspondence and perform any other relevant administrative tasks
- Maintain files and records of meetings
- Coordinate Council communication activities.

6.0 Meeting Operations

Frequency

The Council will meet quarterly, or as required. Meeting dates will be scheduled at the conclusion of each meeting. Timing and scheduling of meetings is by agreement between the parties. The Council will continue to meet until such time as the parties agree to alternative arrangements.

Papers

All agenda items will be forwarded to the Executive Officer by close of business at least eight days prior to the next scheduled meeting. Agendas, minutes of the previous meeting and supporting papers will be distributed at least seven days prior to each meeting. Draft Minutes will be sent to the Council Members for comment, by the Executive Officer, within fourteen days of the meeting. At the next meeting, the Minutes should be ratified by the Council.

Agenda

Standing agenda items will include:

- Attendance and apologies
- Confirmation of minutes
- Actions arising from previous minutes
- National Fruit Fly Strategy updates
- New business
- Next meeting

Attendance

Government Council members should nominate an alternate to replace the member during an absence. The chosen alternate should be the consistent replacement for the member.

If a Council member is absent for three consecutive meetings the Chair shall consult them to discuss this matter and seek to resolve any difficulties preventing attendance. If the situation is unresolvable, the Chair may take action to find a suitable replacement for the member. Members attending virtually by electronic means will be considered in attendance.

Members may be asked to consider issues out-of-session.

Observers and Guests

Other persons may be invited to attend Council meetings to observe or contribute to specific agenda items from time to time as appropriate. Guests must be invited by the Manager or Executive Officer upon request by a participating member and as early as practicable in advance of the meeting.



7.0 Conflicts and Confidentiality

Upon becoming aware of a conflict of interest, members must immediately declare their conflict of interest to the Chair, who will exclude them from decisions that put the member in conflict.

Members and attendees must regard all information made available to them in agendas and minutes, and all discussions at Council meetings as confidential until informed otherwise by the Chair.

8.0 Reporting and Communication

A summary of Council meetings will be in the form of a brief communique suitable for public circulation. This communique is to be provided to Council members within five working days after the meeting and is subject to confirmation by Council members. Council members are to provide comments on the communique within five working days of receipt.

9.0 Review

The Terms of Reference and membership of the Council will be reviewed every 12 months, at the end of each calendar year.

