

# National Fruit Fly Council – Phase 3

## Annual Report

December 2021

### 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. A particular focus in this phase 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 2021 include:

- 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.
- 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
  - commencing a series of webinars to raise awareness of national fruit fly activities
  - 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 National Fruit Fly Council Phase 3 is funded by Hort Innovation with contributions from Plant Health Australia, state and territory governments, and the Australian Government. Hort Innovation is the grower-owned, not-for-profit research and development corporation for Australian horticulture. The National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC, or the Council) aims to monitor and drive progress against the 2020-2025 National Fruit Fly Strategy 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.

The Council is comprised of members from the co-investing government agencies, Hort Innovation, with industry representatives, growers and Plant Health Australia. Together the Council considers national priorities for improving fruit fly management and opportunities for driving progress against these priorities. The project funds regular meetings of the Council, including support for industry participation. The project funds a project team – Manager, Project Officer, Independent Chair and supporting communication specialists - responsible for developing the Council's agenda, undertaking project work as directed, and communicating with fruit fly stakeholders across Australia.

Horticultural industries benefit from an ongoing National Fruit Fly Council by ensuring that national coordination of efforts is maximised, duplication of effort is avoided, and that priorities against the four key areas of the National Fruit Fly Strategy continue to represent industry and government needs. Specifically, these four areas are market access and biosecurity; operations; legislation and regulation; and research and development.

Outputs from the project are updated list of priorities and progress through the National Fruit Fly Strategy Action Plan, advice to research bodies and funding agencies about fruit fly RD&E needs, accessible information to horticultural industry participants and residents about fruit fly management, and articles for industry magazines.

The Terms of Reference for the NFFC are in Attachment 1.



# Key deliverables

## National Fruit Fly Council meetings

The Council has met four times during 2021. Of those meetings, one was held face-to-face, and the remaining were held virtually due to COVID-19.

- Meeting 25 – 10-11 March 2021
- Meeting 26 – 23-24 June 2021
- Meeting 27 – 29-30 September 2021
- Meeting 28 – 14 December 2021

Some of the issues considered by NFFC during these meetings have included:

- Progress against the new 2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy and priority activities required to address gaps and strengthen Australia's fruit fly position to support horticultural trade.
- Progress against the Intergovernmental Agreement to Strengthen Fruit Fly Management, including the development of new National Fruit Fly Protocols.
- Prioritisation for government investment in fruit fly research under the Intergovernmental Agreement.
- Fruit fly outbreak eradication in South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania.
- Risks to Australia's fruit fly distribution profile and potential trade impacts if international recognition of our current distribution were to change.
- Consideration of a national Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) policy and future of the Medfly (WA) and Qfly (SA) SIT facilities.
- Consideration of initial findings from a cost-benefit analysis for Medfly eradication in Australia.
- Exploration of a model for sustainable funding of national fruit fly activities.
- The role and future of irradiation as a market access treatment for fruit fly affected produce.
- The challenges with prospective loss of existing agrichemicals for control of fruit fly and the impact on production and trade.

Council membership grew in 2021 from 14 to 17 members (not including PHA staff). The introduction of industry members and growers has enabled the Council to have more diverse perspectives and robust discussions on national fruit fly matters.

New members in 2021 include:

- Bernie Hennecke – Assistant Secretary, Australian Chief Plant Protection Office, Plant Health Policy, Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
- Nathan Rhodes – Executive Director of Biosecurity, Department of Primary Industries and Regions, South Australia (as an observer for the National Biosecurity Committee)
- Brett Squibb – Apple Grower, Tasmania (2020-2021)
- David Daniels – General Manager (Market Access), Citrus Australia.

In October 2021, after over two-years of steady leadership, the NFFC farewelled Christina Cook from the Manager NFFC role as she spreads her wings for other adventures. The contribution her enthusiasm and breadth of understanding of the national fruit fly system made to the Council cannot be understated. Christina was thanked and acknowledged for her contribution at the September 2021 meeting.



In November 2021, we welcome Stuart Burgess to the role. 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 and business levels, across a broad spectrum of government, industry and commercial sectors. 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 and agricultural sectors. His experience as CEO of Fruit Growers Tasmania and Fund Manager and Industry Services Manager at Hort Innovation, will ensure the NFFC Manager continues its role as a national voice for leadership in fruit fly.

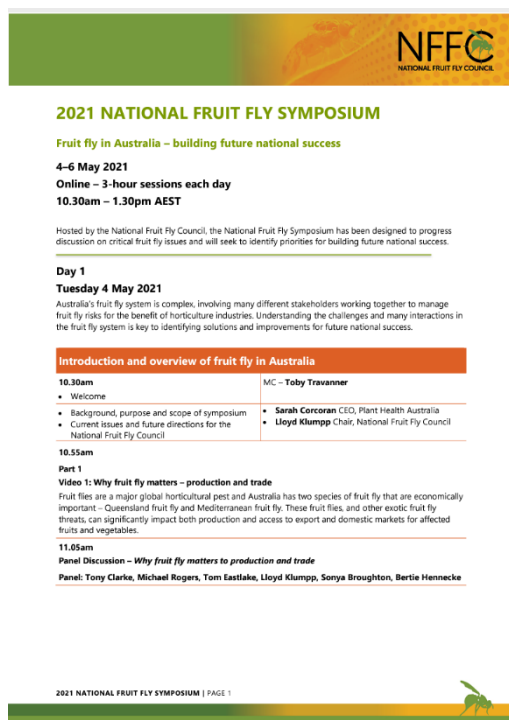
## National Fruit Fly Symposium

The National Fruit Fly Symposium was held virtually from May 4 - 6, 2021. Over 420 participants from a range of backgrounds including industry leaders, government representatives, researchers and growers took part in the symposium. With mature discussion on a wide variety of topics, the keynote speakers highlighted the need for collaboration, communication and commitment from all stakeholders who are impacted by fruit fly in Australia.

The 3 days saw over 38 guest speakers, in both panel form and individual presentations, speak on over 30 different topics relating to fruit fly. The sessions also had informative videos and interactive polls, allowing participants to engage in the symposium in a meaningful way. The live polls were used to shape the discussion of panels as well as give a barometer for the state of fruit fly knowledge amongst participants.

The days were grouped into topics, to better enable the flow of conversation and engagement:

- Day 1: Introduction and Overview of Fruit Fly in Australia
- Day 2: Fruit Fly and Trade
- Day 3: Fruit Fly and Production



**2021 NATIONAL FRUIT FLY SYMPOSIUM**  
**Fruit fly in Australia – building future national success**  
**4-6 May 2021**  
**Online – 3-hour sessions each day**  
**10.30am – 1.30pm AEST**

Hosted by the National Fruit Fly Council, the National Fruit Fly Symposium has been designed to progress discussion on critical fruit fly issues and will seek to identify priorities for building future national success.

**Day 1**  
**Tuesday 4 May 2021**  
 Australia's fruit fly system is complex, involving many different stakeholders working together to manage fruit fly risks for the benefit of horticulture industries. Understanding the challenges and many interactions in the fruit fly system is key to identifying solutions and improvements for future national success.

**Introduction and overview of fruit fly in Australia**

<b>10.30am</b> • Welcome • Background, purpose and scope of symposium • Current issues and future directions for the National Fruit Fly Council	<b>MC – Toby Travener</b> • Sarah Caccorran CEO, Plant Health Australia • Lloyd Klumpp Chair, National Fruit Fly Council
--	--

**10.55am**  
**Part 1**  
**Video 1: Why fruit fly matters – production and trade**  
 Fruit flies are a major global horticultural pest and Australia has two species of fruit fly that are economically important. Queensland fruit fly and Mediterranean fruit fly, these fruit flies, and other exotic fruit fly threats, can significantly impact both production and access to export and domestic markets for affected fruits and vegetables.

**11.05am**  
**Panel Discussion – Why fruit fly matters to production and trade**  
**Panel:** Tony Clarke, Michael Rogers, Tom Eastlake, Lloyd Klumpp, Sonya Broughton, Bertie Hennecke

2021 NATIONAL FRUIT FLY SYMPOSIUM | PAGE 1



**Prevent Fruit Fly @PreventFruitFly · May 3**  
 Have you registered yet? If not, it's not too late! We're keeping registrations open. Register now at: [consec.eventsair.com/national-fruit...](https://consec.eventsair.com/national-fruit-...)  
 @Hort\_Au @planthealthaustr

**National Fruit Fly Symposium 2021**  
*Building future national success*

It's not too late!

NFFC  
 NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL



**Prevent Fruit Fly @PreventFruitFly · May 1**  
 These #NationalFruitFlySymposium Day 3 Speakers will discuss the risks and community cooperation needed for Off-farm challenges. Read more about the Speakers here: [preventfruitfly.com.au/speaker-profile...](https://preventfruitfly.com.au/speaker-profile...)

**MEET OUR SPEAKERS**

 Narelle Beattie Regional Coordinator Greater Sydney Fruit Fly Governance Group	 Bree Grima Managing Director Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative	 Nick Secomb Manager, Fruit Health Operations FFCWA	 Dr Heleen Kruger Social Sciences, Biotechnology and Social Science ANIMAL SCIENCE
--	---	--	---

**National Fruit Fly Symposium 2021**  
*Building future national success*

**DAY 3**

NFFC  
 NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL

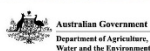
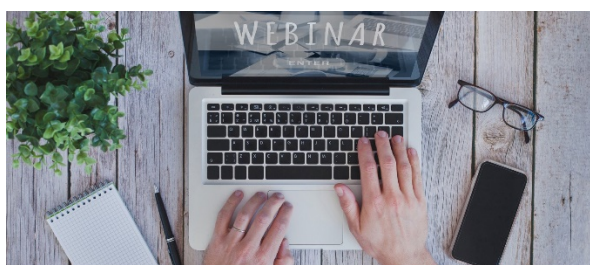


## National Fruit Fly Council webinar series

In the final year of the NFFC Phase 3 project we have focused engagement on a series of online forums for information exchange, in lieu of being able to deliver face-to-face regional fruit fly workshops. These forums and workshops can empower regional stakeholders by sharing relevant information on national fruit fly management activities and research, and practical and regionally appropriate practices for the management and/or prevention of fruit fly. NFFC delivered 2 webinars 2021.

- Webinar 5: National fruit fly biocontrol research program (23 February 2021)
- Webinar 6: Predictive modelling and forecasting of fruit flies in Australia (6 September 2021)

Attendance across the series averaged around 100 attendees each webinar. Participants included researchers, growers, grower advocacy groups, peak industry bodies, regulators, policy makers and the general public. Slides from the individual presentations have been made available on the Prevent Fruit Fly Website. The forced shift on online engagement has demonstrated that webinars are valuable for sending national messages and simultaneously reaching multiple production regions and industries.





Throughout 2021, nine Prevent Fruit Fly e-newsletters were distributed, and in this year the number of newsletter subscribers has increased by 39% to 582.



### A note from the Manager

Now that we are well into spring, it is fitting that we welcome some fresh beginnings for fruit fly.

The current contract for the National Fruit Fly Council concludes in December 2021 and a new contract is being negotiated with Hort Innovation and state government co-investors. This paves the way for improvements to the council's operations to be considered including increasing trade and industry engagement and strengthening the coordination of national research priorities for fruit fly.

With some exciting opportunities ahead, it is with mixed feelings that I will be bidding farewell to my role as Manager of the council at the end of October 2021. In the last two years I have seen some significant shifts in national cooperation and engagement for fruit fly management in Australia and I hope this momentum continues and can bring about important benefits to horticultural trade into the future.

Expressions of interest are now invited for the role of NFFC Manager. Read more below.

Best wishes

**Christina Cook**

Manager, National Fruit Fly Council

### Australian citrus gains greater access to US

The US Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is expanding the production areas in Australia authorised to export fresh citrus to the US.

[Read more](#)

### Protection needed as fruit fly threat rises

As the weather warmed, and fruit fly populations became active and rapidly increased, the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (GSPFA) expected more reports of the pest wreaking havoc in backyards across the region.

[Read more](#)

### New guide outlines management for Mediterranean fruit fly in Egypt

The Mediterranean fruit fly (*Ceratitis capitata*) is a key pest of citrus fruit and can infect over 300 other economically important fruit-bearing plant species. A new management guide can provide insights for Australia.

[Read more](#)

### Innovation in the Top End

The new facilities at the Berrimah Farm Science Precinct offer innovative opportunities to enhance biosecurity surveillance, diagnostics, preparedness and response across northern Australia, while offering scope to leverage further investment to support innovative research and development to support the expansion of northern industries.

[Read more](#)

### Two million fruit flies on a plane at Echuca

Two million passengers boarded a small plane at Echuca aerodrome on Tuesday, none had any luggage and there certainly wasn't any meal service on board. They were Queensland Fruit Flies bound for the first "drop" of the season at Cobram.

[Read more](#)

### Importance of crop hygiene and host management

Fruit trees and veggie patches have long been a staple of Aussie backyards, and recent events have seen a resurgence in their popularity as many of us take the opportunity to enjoy our gardens. Unfortunately, we're not the only ones enjoying our backyard fruit trees and veggie patches.

[Read more](#)

**Prevent Fruit Fly** @PreventFruitFly · Oct 13

The latest edition of the Prevent Fruit Fly newsletter is out now! Learn more about an integrated approach to manage established fruit fly, an exciting new job opportunity and more. Read more [bit.ly/2YGywaT](https://bit.ly/2YGywaT) #preventfruitfly #biosecurity

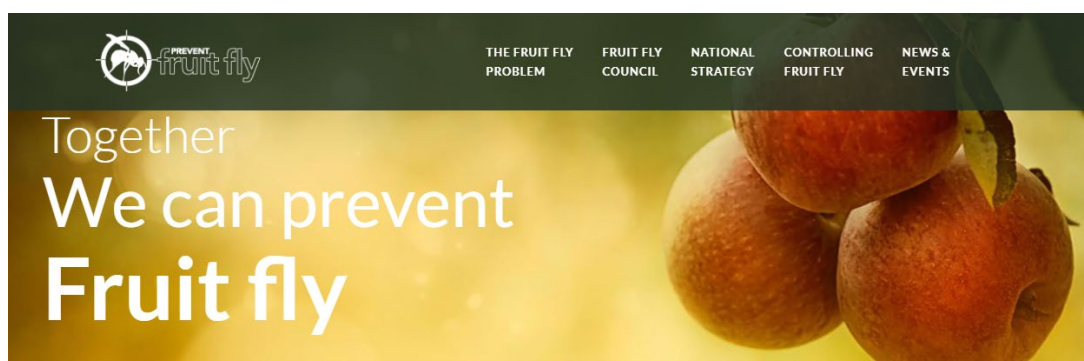
**New edition  
out now!**

**NFFC**  
NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL



## Prevent Fruit Fly website

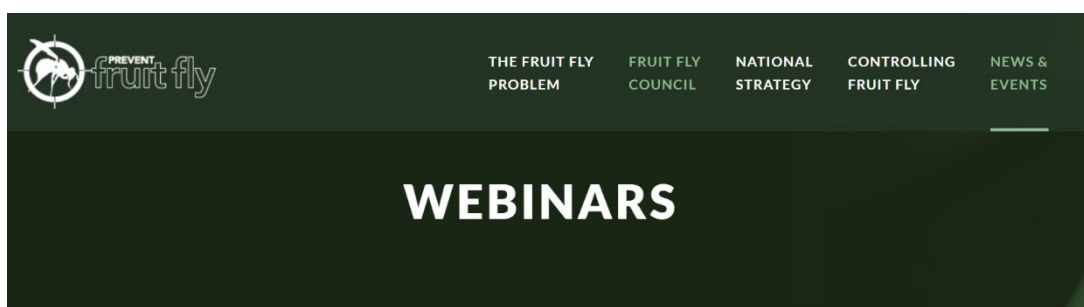
Since January 2021 the website has been updated with new member biographies and meeting communiques. During 2021 the website had 104,512 page views and 61,814 users. This is an increase of 125% and 156% respectively from 2020 (46,361 page views and 24,080 users).



### Prevent Fruit Fly newsletter

Sign up to receive news and information about fruit fly and the National Fruit Fly Council

SUBSCRIBE NOW



#### NATIONAL FRUIT FLY COUNCIL

- > [About](#)
- > [Council members](#)
- > [Communiques](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Webinars](#)

In 2020 and 2021, the National Fruit Fly Council held a series of webinars:

- Predictive modelling and forecasting of fruit flies in Australia (6 September 2021) – [View agenda and download presentations](#)
- National fruit fly biocontrol research program (23 February 2021) – [View agenda](#)
- The ICA scheme (15 December 2020) – [View agenda](#)
- Phytosanitary irradiation (26 October 2020) – [View agenda](#) – [Download presentations](#)
- So you think you know SIT? (25 September 2020) – [View agenda](#) – [Download presentations](#)
- Research to strengthen Australia fruit fly system (17 August 2020) – [View agenda](#) – [Download information package](#)
- National Fruit Fly Strategy 2020-25 information session (3 July 2020) – [Download presentation](#)

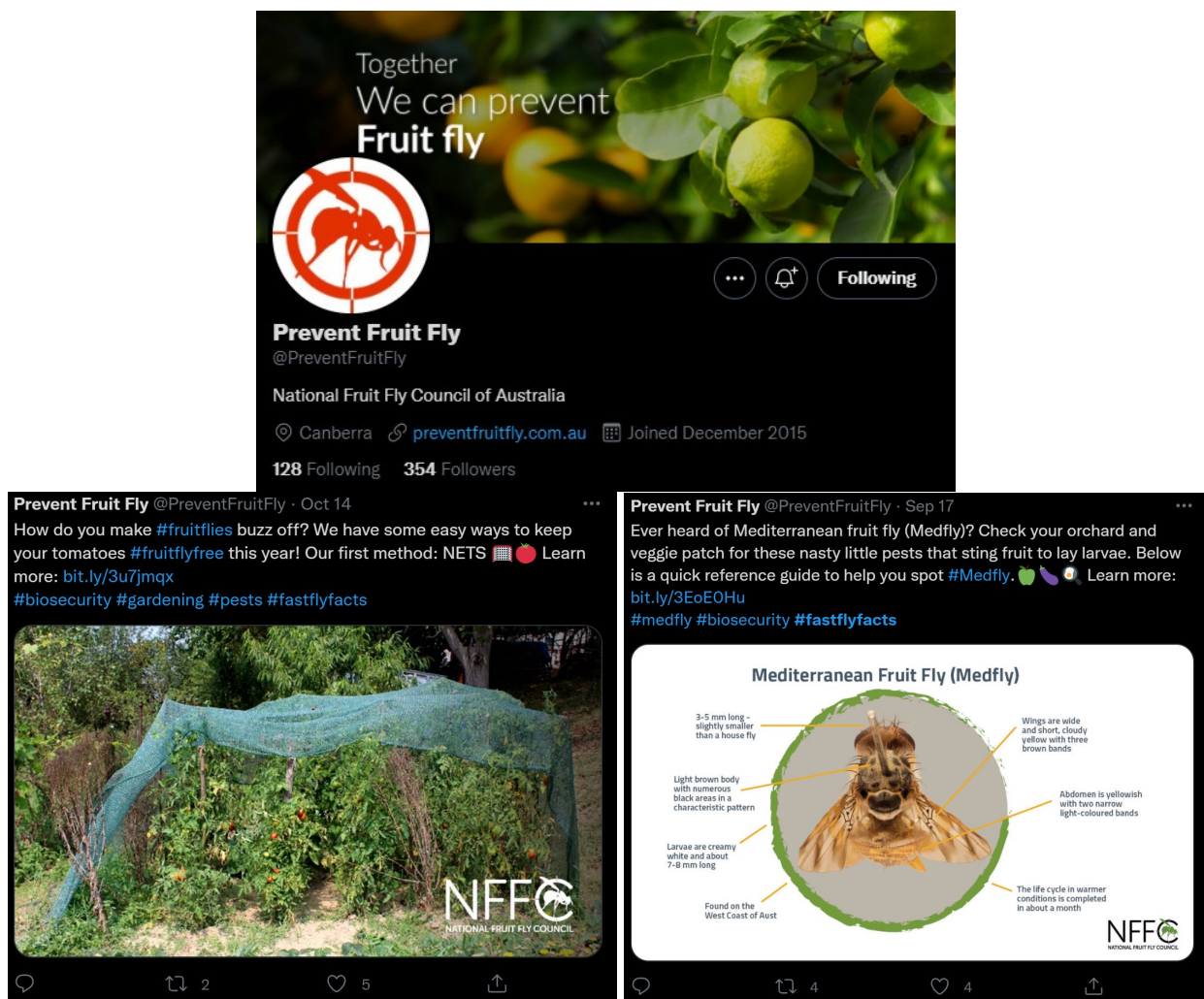


## Prevent Fruit Fly Twitter account

In 2021, 118 tweets and 221 retweets were shared on the Prevent Fruit Fly Twitter feed which received a total of 37,000 impressions. In 2020, the account shared a combined total of 58 tweets and retweets and received 58,273 impressions; though the number of tweets has increased by 108%, impressions have decreased by 37% over the year.

During this 2021 year, the number of Twitter followers more than doubled from 272 followers to 354 followers.

Through the Prevent Fruit Fly twitter account we have also successfully run social media campaigns with information targeted at specific audiences. The use of hashtags (#) enables us to group these messages together allowing users to quickly find information in the related topic. An example of these campaigns was launched in spring of 2021, targeting the backyard grower/gardener.





---

## Industry articles

---

Several fruit fly articles have been written and distributed to relevant industry magazines over the course of year, topics included:

- 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

---

## Phase 3 additional activities

---

This is the final annual report for the Phase 3 project of the NFFC, and as well as the scheduled activities above, the project used budget savings from COVID-19 travel restrictions and staff short-falls to invest in four additional activities, presented below.

### Independent review

An independent external review of project activities, performance, program structure and corporate government arrangements, was conducted to inform future phases of funding.

The independent review of project HA18000 – National Fruit Fly Council (Phase 3) was undertaken by GHD Pty Ltd during October and November 2021. The review included a combination of desk-top review and stakeholder consultation, with more than 45 individual consults representing more than 25 organisations including representatives of fruit fly impacted industries, grower groups, governments, and the Council member organisations. Review recommendations will be presented to the NFFC in December 2021, for consideration throughout the first half of 2022. A plan for release of this report, discussion, consideration and possible implementation of the recommendations will be built into the next project; Phase 4 of the NFFC.

### Fruit Fly Specific Agrichemical Issues for Horticulture

This desktop was completed by agrichemical expert, Kevin Bodnaruk, and provided a perspective on the regulatory pressures on insecticides currently approved for in-crop use in Australia for fruit fly (Tephritidae) management. 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 their potential relevance of these trends from an Australian regulatory context.

Key messages are that the primary means of in-crop fruit fly management, at the farmer and state quarantine level, are several insecticides that are most at risk from regulatory pressures in the short to medium-term, i.e., the next 3 to 5 years (Appendix 8).

The findings of this review will be presented to the NFFC in December 2021 and made available on the Prevent Fruit Fly website. The implications will be considered throughout NFFC Phase 4, as a basis for stakeholder collaboration on long-term solutions for agrichemical use in fruit fly management and transition to alternative control regimes as appropriate.

### Communications Materials - Off-Farm Management of Fruit Fly

Off-farm management of fruit fly in suburban backyards, street trees, local government areas (LGAs), etc.,



was raised as an area of concern to the NFFC throughout Phase 3. At the May 2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium, participants ask the NFFC to help local governments communicate this problem. In October 2021, PHA contracted a professional communication team to develop output for off-farm management of fruit fly, catering for regions with established Queensland fruit fly and established Mediterranean fruit fly (and any applicable lesser fruit fly species).

This activity will produce information packs and an associated communications plan to promote the off-farm management of fruit fly among local governments, community groups, and home gardeners in regional horticulture production areas across Australia. The completed material will be finalized in mid-December 2021, for publication and promotion throughout NFFC Phase 4.

### Contribution to an Oriental Fruit Fly simulation exercise (PHA in conjunction with Macquarie University)

The NFFC has made a financial contribution (\$16,000) to the development of an Oriental Fruit Fly (OFF) simulation exercise for delivery in northern Australia (in 2022) by the Plant Health Australia EPPRD and training team, in conjunction with Macquarie University and DPI NSW (Hort Innovation project *Biosecurity preparedness for oriental fruit fly* FF18001). The uncertainty around Australia's preparedness and understanding of the impacts of exotic fruit flies was raised as a critical knowledge gap at the 2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium. Council support will ensure that more than one region can participate in simulation exercises to inform readiness and raise awareness of exotic fruit flies.

Planning is underway in both the scope and delivery of this work to ensure Australia's preparedness for OFF is elevated. Awareness of the activity was raised with PHC in an intersessional meeting (September 2021). This work will be delivered in 2022.

## Key Outcomes

In the last twelve months we have gained momentum in progressing key issues within the Council, considered and advised on national fruit fly priorities, improved Council engagement with stakeholders, with 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 NFFC 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 NFFC 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.

Attachment A: The National Fruit Fly Council Terms of Reference



# Attachment 1: 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 is comprised of:

Name		Title	Industry / Organisation
Lloyd	Klumpp	Chair	National Fruit Fly Council
Alison	Anderson	General Manager, Research, Marketing and Investments	Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd
Greg	Chandler	R&D Manager for Biosecurity	Horticulture Innovation Australia Ltd
Satendra	Kumar	Director Plant Biosecurity & Product Integrity	NSW Department of Primary Industries
Ross	Meffin	Executive Director	Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia
Mike	Ashton	General Manager and Chief Plant Health Manager (Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity)	Biosecurity Queensland, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland
Andrew	Bishop	Chief Plant Protection Officer (Tasmania)	Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Tasmania
Sonya	Broughton	Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Western Australia
Bertie	Hennecke	Assistant Secretary (Australian Chief Plant Protection Office, Plant Health Policy)	Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment
Rosa	Crnov	Chief Plant Health Officer	Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Victoria
Steve	Burdette	Owner	Steve Burdette & Associates
David	Daniels	General Manager (Market Development)	Citrus Australia
Tom	Eastlake	President	Cherry Growers Australia
Brett	Squibb	Apple Grower (Jan - Oct 2021)	R.W Squibb and Sons Orchards
Mark	Wilkinson	Stonefruit Grower	Sunpick Orchards
Dale	Williams	Mango Grower	Euri Gold Farms
Jolene	Williams	Stonefruit Grower	Sunfruit Orchards
Christina	Cook	Manager, NFFC (until Oct 2021)	Plant Health Australia
Stuart	Burgess	Manager, NFFC (from Nov 2021)	Plant Health Australia
Rod	Turner	General Manager Partnerships (until Jul 2021)	Plant Health Australia
Mila	Bristow	National Manager, Performance and Innovation (from Jul 2021)	Plant Health Australia
Rachel	Louise	NFFC Project Officer (from Sep 2021)	Plant Health Australia

### Chairperson

The Council will be chaired by an independent chair, currently 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 Secretariat Support**

Secretariat 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 Project 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 Project 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 Project 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.

