

The National Fruit Fly Research, Development & Extension Plan

Fruit fly costs the nation approximately \$300 million a year in control and lost markets, with over 75 per cent of Australian fruit and vegetable exports susceptible. As the main chemical control methods of fruit fly, dimethoate and fenthion, are being phased out a long term solution to controlling these pests is vital. As well as already established pests, there are over 30 exotic fruit fly species offshore which are considered biosecurity threats to Australian horticultural industries.

As part of ensuring that fruit fly is not a constraint to future sustainable production and domestic and international market access, Minister Barnaby Joyce has reinvigorated the National Fruit Fly Strategy by implementing an Advisory Committee to oversee its implementation, hosted by Plant Health Australia. The Minister also requested that the Plant Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre (PBCRC) develop a long-term National Fruit Fly RD&E Plan.

The RD&E plan sits under both the National Fruit Fly Strategy and the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy and will operate under advice from the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee and the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy Implementation Committee.

This plan will provide a foundation for long term fruit fly RD&E in Australia, to support the ongoing profitability and trade of fruit fly affected industries.

The National Fruit Fly RD&E Plan aims to:

1. Identify Australia's current capability in fruit fly research, development and extension.
2. Identify the outcomes required by growers, industries, regulators and biosecurity managers which are needed to ensure that fruit fly is not an impediment to sustainable production and market access.
3. Identify Australia's short, medium and long-term strategic RD&E fruit fly needs and priorities to meet those outcomes and the aims of the National Fruit Fly Strategy.
4. Identify potential funding sources to support future RD&E activities.
5. Promote and facilitate collaboration in fruit fly RD&E at the community, regional, national and international level.

Process for making submissions

A wide range of stakeholders will be directly contacted as part of the development of this plan, but interested parties may also contribute via submissions on the PBCRC web page: www.pbcrc.com.au/research/fruit-fly-plan or by email: FruitFlyRD&E@pbcrc.com.au.

Submissions close on September 30, 2014.

Next Steps

Survey responses, discussions, comments and written submissions will be gathered, consolidated and reviewed for inclusion in the National Fruit Fly RD&E Plan and the National Plant Biosecurity RD&E Strategy.

A draft plan will be developed by November 15, 2014 for submission to the National Fruit Fly Strategy Advisory Committee.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'm. robinson', is positioned above the name and title of the signatory.

Michael Robinson
CEO Plant Biosecurity CRC