

NFFC Communiqué

The 35th meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC, or the Council) was held as a hybrid meeting on 7th August 2024. Council members attended in person at the Department of Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA) Head Office located at 11 Waymouth Street, Adelaide, as well as virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Strategy and Implementation Plan/Report Update

Work by the NFFC Council remains guided by the priorities set in the National Fruit Fly Strategy (NFFS) of which the current version covers the period from 2020-2025 inclusive. The NFFS was developed by the Council to provide a supporting framework for stakeholder cooperation as part of a national approach to fruit fly management in Australia. Implementation of the NFFS is monitored by the Council through development and review of Annual Implementation Plans (AIPs) designed to bring together key fruit fly activities as outlined in the NFFS and to reflect shared goals supported by stakeholders. Each AIP is evaluated by the Council through the development of Annual Implementation Reports (AIRs) which also report against the NFFS Strategic Framework. Both AIPs and AIRs inform the development of strategically aligned annual priorities that guide work undertaken by the Council and the Executive Committee during each calendar year.

During Meeting #33, NFFC Manager, Stuart Burgess, provided an update on the NFFC Implementation Plan 2024-25 and NFFC Implementation Report 2023-24. Final versions will be distributed to the Council for endorsement out of session.

National Fruit Fly Council Research Working Group

The NFFC Research Working Group is assisting the Council to develop a National Fruit Fly Research, Development and Extension (RD&E) Plan. A component of the role of the NFFC Research Working Group; in conjunction with the broader industry and value chain, was noted to be to improve the capturing of current research and work being undertaken across the fruit fly system.

An updated economic analysis of fruit fly in Australia was also noted to be of heightened importance in terms of guiding future investment in fruit fly management in Australia as well as development of a future NFFS. The Research Working Group was acknowledged as assisting in the progress of both items in addition to the NFFS review process.

Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee (AFFTAC)

The NFFC Manager, Stuart Burgess, has now been invited as an observer on the Australian Fruit Fly Technical Advisory Committee (AFFTAC). This decision is beneficial in terms of improving visibility and engagement across key research activities being undertaken and planned into the future.

Strategic Planning Workshop Session

A new NFFS is planned to cover the period from 2026-2035 inclusive and to succeed the current NFFS covering the period from 2020-2025 inclusive. Planning for the next iteration of the NFFS has been ongoing since NFFC Meeting #34 held in December 2023.

To support the review and development of a new NFFS, a joint Strategic Planning Workshop Session facilitated by the NFFC Chair was held as part of NFFC Meeting #35.

The Council acknowledged an Economic Analysis would be essential for the success of any future NFFS. Together, the purpose of the Economic Analysis and new NFFS would be to ensure ongoing investment in fruit fly areas that provide the greatest benefit across the system.

During the Workshop, it was noted that significant progress had been made towards the development of the project scope and potential funding opportunities for an Economic Analysis.

The next NFFC Committee meeting (Meeting #36) is scheduled to be held on 10 December 2024.