



Department of
Primary Industries

Changes in Queensland Fruit Fly management in Eastern Australia

A century of progress and change

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Introduction – early years

- Thanks to PHA for organising this event
- Fruit flies not a problem until about 1900
- Species moved by unregulated trade between states
- Early work to understand the basics (Froggatt, Jarvis)
- In 1930's, Qfly transitioned to non-native hosts
- Qfly- Medfly confusion in the east

1940s to 1960's

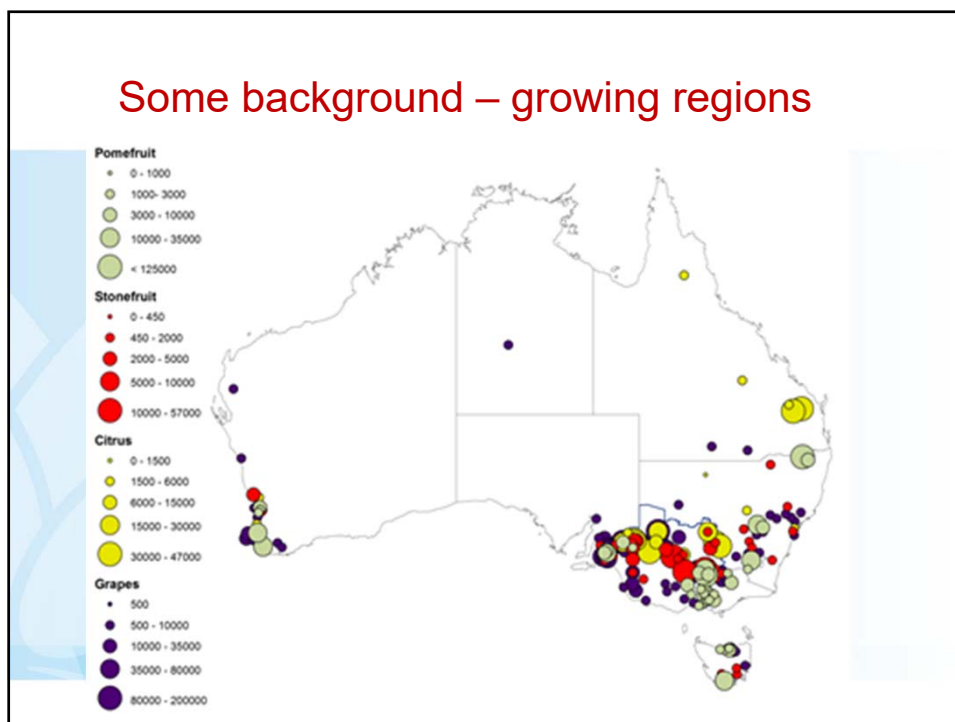
- Sorting out of the Qfly/Medfly confusion
- Decline of Medfly along the east coast
- 1941 in NSW and 1953 in Victoria
- Baits and lures, interesting mixtures
- Repellents – coal tar

- In 1960's, cuelure developed
- Baiting and male annihilation advocated

1960s to 1990's

- Basic FF understanding in the 1960's
- Some FF finesse in 1970's

- Main production in SE Australia
- Wet years in 1989
- Regional program – market failure
- Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone (FFEZ)
- Government sponsored eradication
- Optimise exports – uneven results

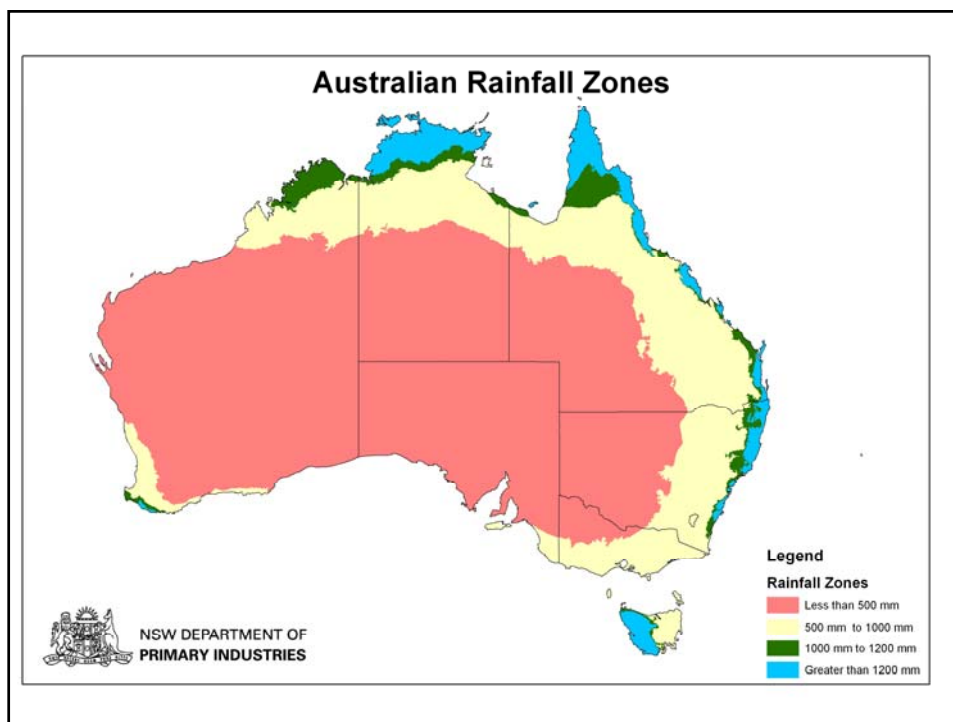


Next era - early 1990's to 2010

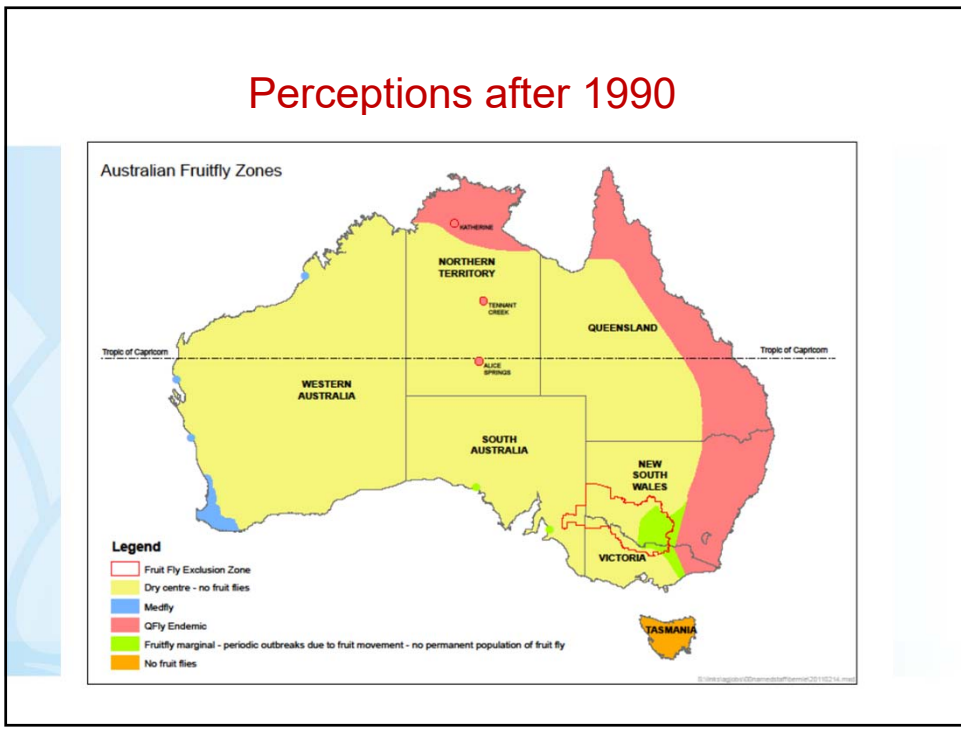
- Funding for a Qfly mass rearing facility
- Using WA equipment (1st Qfly facility)
- Opened 1996
- Funding to review/optimize Qfly mass rearing (Jessup)
- SIT releases from 1997 onwards
- Were we prepared?
- FFEZ Perceptions driven by reports by Bateman 1991 (Fletcher, Meats)
- Queensland managed Qfly – endemic trade

Demise of the FFEZ – 2010-2013

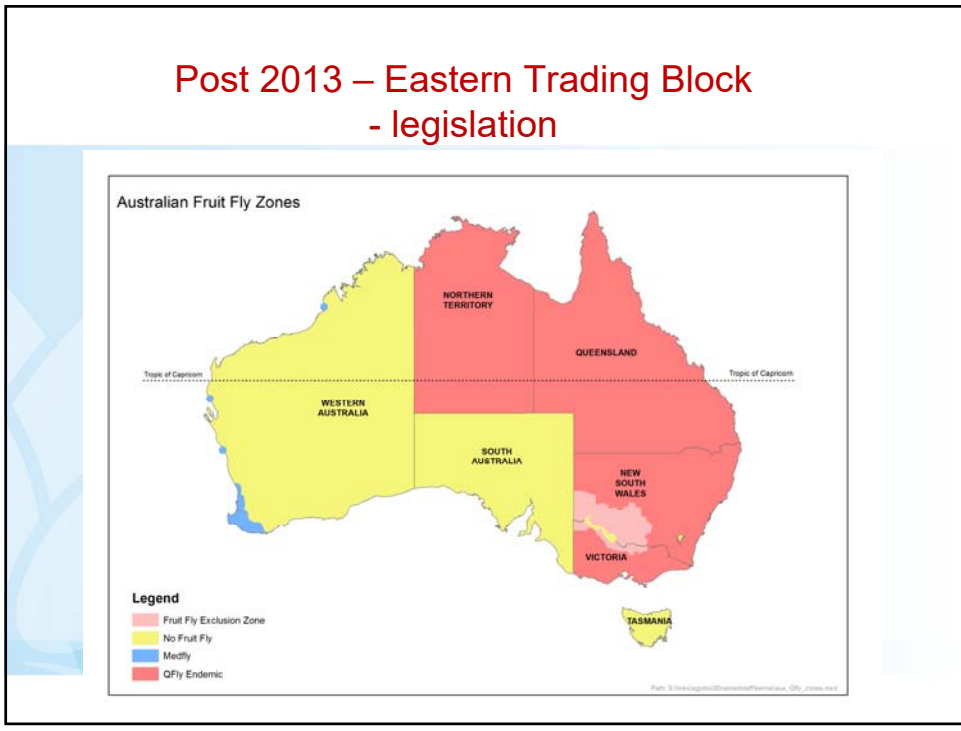
- Dry years allowed eradications to be successful – <100 Qfly annually
- About 18,000 trap inspection events annually in NSW
- 2010-2011 wettest two-year period (record)
- >120 outbreaks
- >27,000 Qfly in pest free area
- Economically unsustainable
- Technically unfeasible
- Withdrew legislative support in 2013 (NSW, Victoria)



Perceptions after 1990



Post 2013 – Eastern Trading Block - legislation



Australian trade and international standards

- International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPM)
- Empty shell – please populate
- Systems Approach – delivery to other standards
- Pest Free Area (PFA) – eg FFEZ
- Area of Low Pest Prevalence (ALPP)
- Pest Free Place of Production (PFPP) – group
- Pest Free Production Site (PFPS) - single/large
- Demonstrate status – surveillance
- Standards based on biology – outbreak, eradication, dispersal = research

Areas of Low Pest Prevalence

- Sub-variant of PFA
- Low level populations – non breeding
- Invested the effort
- No international interest
- I wanna be “free”
- Recover and move on (PFPP, PFPS)
- Freedom from non-Qfly species

Changing of the guard – post 2013

- Closure of the eastern FFEZ
- Closure of Camden facility - June 2018
- Development of SITplus
- Port Augusta Qfly facility opened
- Greater involvement with universities
- Ongoing role of government in trade
- Development of new market access standards
- Climate change
- Need increasing engagement with Commonwealth for trade guidance

What have I learnt in 24 FF years?

- Disconnect between federal, state, universities and industry
- Money makes the world go round
- Trade/selling = income and future industries
- Test tube chemistry – universities
- Shipping container chemistry – governments

- We “discover” the same information many times – peer reviewed publications
- **TODAY** - looking for the Commonwealth to provide guidance – trade vs research

Better 4-way flow of information



Welcome to the new tomorrow

Thanks again to PHA

Enjoy the next two days

Thanks for listening

Questions ?