

# NFFC Communique

## MEETING 21, 5 MARCH 2020, BRISBANE

The 21st meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (the Council) was held in Brisbane on Thursday, 5 March 2020.

### National Fruit Fly Strategy

The Council Manager has consulted over 35 fruit fly affected peak industry bodies and regional grower groups in the development of the draft 2020-2025 National Fruit Fly Strategy (the Strategy). General support for the Strategy has been received, with stakeholders noting that it aligns with other national plant health strategies and provides a robust framework for the management of fruit fly in Australia.

Stakeholders have emphasised the need for a realistic implementation plan to achieve the strategic objectives of the Strategy as no additional funding has been allocated. The Council agreed and will prepare an implementation plan for 2020-21 before seeking formal endorsement of the Strategy in June 2020.

### Western Australia Medfly SIT facility

The Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) SIT facility in Western Australia is jointly funded by Western Australia and South Australia. Continued access to SIT Medflies as a fruit fly management tool is in the national interest, particularly given their use in eradicating seasonal outbreaks of Medfly outside of Western Australia. This helps to maintain Australia's East-West distribution profile which recognises that Queensland fruit fly is absent in western parts of Australia, and Medfly is absent in eastern parts of Australia. The Council discussed longer-term funding options for the facility and provided advice on the issue to Plant Health Committee (PHC). PHC will discuss the item at its upcoming teleconference at the end of March 2020.

### Sustainable Funding Options for National Fruit Fly Management

The concept of establishing sustainable funding for national fruit fly activities is complex and has been a long running issue for the Council. The Council noted that the issue requires expert guidance and a nationally cooperative approach and agreed to the development of a proposal to formally consider a sustainable funding model for fruit fly.

### Industry Session

A number of Queensland-based industry representatives were invited to a 'meet and greet' with the Council. Industry attendees joined the Council for lunch before participating in a range of discussions including *Fruit Fly Interception in Commercial Fruit* (led by Australian Mangoes); *Hort Innovation Fruit Fly Research* (led by Hort Innovation); *Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF) Research Program* (led by the senior principal entomologist from QDAF); and the *Exotic Fruit Fly Torres Strait Response Program* (led by the Queensland Chief Plant Health Manager).

The Council heard about delays in communication experienced by industry when fruit fly interceptions were detected in commercial fruit being traded interstate. It was agreed that the domestic regulator communication process could be improved, and the matter was referred to PHC for consideration. The Council also acknowledged the importance of coordination of the Hort Innovation and state research programs and the success of the Torres Strait Program in preventing exotic fruit fly incursions in Australia.



Overall the session was well received and the Council plan to continue this initiative for future Council meetings.

### **Bundaberg Fruit Fly Workshop**

The Council held its first regional fruit fly workshop in Bundaberg on Wednesday, 4 March 2020. The workshop was held at the Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers office and brought together Council members and regional stakeholders (industry representatives, growers, researchers etc.) to discuss market access and farm hygiene practices in a fruit fly endemic region. The workshop provided a good opportunity for two-way communication and the Council is currently exploring options for its next regional workshop. Please contact [FruitFly@phau.com.au](mailto:FruitFly@phau.com.au) if you have any suggestions for a workshop in your area.

### **National Fruit Fly Symposium**

The Council are planning to hold a two-day national fruit fly symposium on 25-26 August 2020 in Sydney. The purpose of the symposium is to facilitate information exchange, identify knowledge gaps, and consider the future policy direction for fruit fly management in Australia. The Council formed an organising committee to facilitate delivery of the event and further information will be made available shortly.

### **Next meeting**

The next Council meeting (Meeting 22) is scheduled to be held in Hobart on Wednesday, 3 June 2020.

