

NFFFC Communique

MEETING 23, 26-27 AUGUST 2020

Due to COVID-19 and its associated restrictions, the 23rd meeting of the National Fruit Fly Council (the Council) was held over two virtual sessions on 26 and 27 August 2020.

Industry Membership

The Council welcomed David Daniels from Citrus Australia as a new member to the Council. David brings a wealth of fruit fly knowledge and experience, and the Council is delighted to have him on board.

National Fruit Fly Strategy

The 2020-25 National Fruit Fly Strategy has recently been endorsed by the Council, fruit fly affected industry members of Plant Health Australia (PHA) and Plant Health Committee (PHC). Endorsement of the Strategy will be sought from the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) at its next meeting. It will then be sent to the PHA board, the Hort Innovation Board, the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and Agriculture Ministers Forum (AGMIN) for noting.

The Council looks forward to officially launching the Strategy in October along with the associated 2020-21 Implementation Plan. These documents will be made available on the Prevent Fruit Fly website from that time.

Western Australia Medfly SIT facility

Following advice from the Council, the NBC has recently considered funding options for the Western Australia SIT facility and approved an equal cost-share split across participating governments for twelve months. A cost-benefit and beneficiary analysis for the facility is considered important and options for this analysis are currently being explored.

Sustainable Funding Options for National Fruit Fly Management

The issue of sustainable funding for national fruit fly activities is significant and complex and has been under discussion for a long time in fruit fly deliberations. The Council has developed a project proposal to guide the development of a business case to explore sustainable funding for national fruit fly activities. The NBC will be considering funding for the project proposal.

Council Communications

Due to COVID-19 and its associated restrictions, the Council is unable to progress a number of its planned face-to-face initiatives and is instead focused on increasing the Council's online presence through the [Prevent Fruit Fly website](#), [twitter account](#) and [e-newsletter](#). Stakeholders are encouraged to connect with these platforms to learn more about the work of the Council and current national fruit fly issues.



Regional Workshops

With the inability to hold face-to-face workshops, the Council has commenced a series of webinars to raise awareness of national fruit fly activities. The first of the series, a webinar on the Research Program for Strengthening Australia's Fruit Fly System (the Research Program), was held on 17 August 2020. The webinar was attended by 100 government and industry stakeholders and provided an overview of the Australian government's Smart Fruit Fly Management measure and presentations on three projects currently funded under the Research Program. The next webinar is on Sterile Insect Technique activities and is tentatively scheduled for the end of September. Please keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

2021 National Fruit Fly Symposium

The Council is planning a National Fruit Fly Symposium to be delivered in mid-2021, supported by a program of workshops in the lead up to the Symposium. The themes for the workshops will be:

- a) living with established fruit fly
- b) maintaining pest free areas
- c) risks of minor/exotic species
- d) collaborating on fruit fly research needs.

The outcomes of the workshops will be consolidated and used to build the agenda for the Symposium, which will be interactive and involve a mixture of presentations and panel discussions.

Next meeting

The next Council meeting (Meeting 24) is scheduled to be held in November 2020. The location of the meeting will be dependent on COVID-19 and its associated restrictions at that time.

