

GREATER SUNRAYSIA REGIONAL FRUIT FLY ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING 13 • 17 FEBRUARY 2022

EXCITING NEW TERM FOR ADVISORY GROUP

New members – Jessica Lye from Citrus Australia, Alison MacGregor from the Australian Table Grape Association, and Robyn Morrison from the Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions, Plants, Chemicals and Invasives Unit – joined returning members for a new term with the Greater Sunraysia Regional Fruit Fly Advisory Group.

The new term provides an opportunity for input into the regional fruit fly program until June 2025. The members are their industry's or organisation's voice in decisions for fruit fly management. The group has representatives from the citrus, table grape, stone fruit, wine grape, dried fruit and vegetable industries. There are also representatives from Mildura and Swan Hill Rural City Councils and Gannawarra Shire Council, Agriculture Victoria, and NSW Department of Primary Industries.

The group's terms of reference were endorsed at the meeting, and these will guide the function of the group until June 2025. They are available here:

www.pestfreearea.com.au/about

Alison MacGregor, who has more than 30 years' experience in horticulture and viticulture, was appointed as Chair of the group. Alison is a well-respected consultant and research scientist, having worked on many table grape extension projects. She has facilitated workshops and field days to increase adoption of Qfly baiting and also co-produced a set of fact sheets and posters to encourage baiting in stone fruit, table grapes and citrus.



Warren Lloyd from Dried Fruits Australia (DFA) was appointed as Deputy Chair. Warren is also deputy chair of the DFA board, the managing director of a dried grape property in Irymple, and supports the development of SuniTAFE's facilities, resources and capabilities in ag-hort training, with a focus on future skills requirements, in his industry liaison role.



SUB-REGIONAL FRUIT FLY MANAGEMENT

The group had a detailed discussion about the proposed sub-regional Queensland fruit fly management plans project, which aims to identify and address specific needs of three sub regions within greater Sunraysia to reduce Qfly pressure on agriculture properties in these areas.

The project further aims to facilitate discussion with the sub-regional communities and identify target audiences, issues and complexities. It will then work with local councils, Agriculture Victoria, industry representatives, local community leaders and other stakeholders to identify potential activities or actions specific to these areas. It is then proposed to implement a selection of activities that are feasible within the budget, while funding options for additional activities are investigated.

The group was presented with outcomes of a review of historical Queensland fruit fly data, combined with knowledge of community dynamics from the GSPFA team, and endorsed the recommendation for this project to be delivered in Robinvale, Tresco and Red Cliffs sub-regions.

They endorsed:

- A recommendation to deploy RapidAIM real-time monitoring devices within each area to help provide alerts of population changes (number of flies and geographical distribution), an indication of when to act against Qfly and what type of strategy/strategies might work best
- The formation of a discussion group in the Tresco area to facilitate discussions on the dynamics of the area and contributing factors to fruit fly populations, and to develop strategies to reduce populations
- Engagement of an entomologist to review Qfly data for the Red Cliffs area and determine any population dynamics within the region that might need further investigation.

MEMBERSHIP 2022-2025 TERM

Australian Table Grape Association

- Jeff Scott
- Alison MacGregor (Chair)

AusVeg

- Nathan Free

Citrus Australia

- Jessica Lye

Sunraysia Citrus Growers

- Kevin Cock

Dried Fruits Australia

- Warren Lloyd (Deputy Chair)

Murray Valley Winegrowers Inc

- Paul Derrico

Swan Hill Summerfruit Development Association

- Joelene Williams
- Rocco Infantino

Summerfruit Australia

- TBA

Swan Hill Rural City Council

- Nicholas Mudge

Mildura Rural City Council

- Chris Parham

Gannawarra Shire Council

- Scott Wishart

NSW Department of Primary Industries

- Bev Zurbo

Department of Jobs Precincts and Regions

- Robyn Morrison
- Cathy Mansfield

Olive and Avocado Industries seats are vacant

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 19 May 2022.

CONTACT US

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The Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly program is supported by the Victorian Government.

