



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Fruit tree removal brings relief**

Fran Gillon has cleared her conscience with the removal of some large fruit trees that had become too difficult to manage against Queensland fruit fly.

The Red Cliffs resident began learning all she could about protecting her garden from Qfly after moving back to the region just over a year ago.

“I’ve always been environmentally conscious and wanted to do my bit, but I didn’t know much about fruit fly at all, so I contacted Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area for advice,” Fran said.

“Even though there wasn’t any fruit on the trees at the time, I wanted to be on the front foot and be ready to handle any problems.

“Fruit fly wasn’t something we needed to worry about when I lived here 30 years ago, but I noticed some traps in the trees, so I knew it must have been around.

“I think everyone who has fruit trees should do what they can to help stamp it out or get it right under control.”

Fran said she wasn’t planning on removing any of her fruit trees, but after spending much of the first summer in her new house bagging up and disposing of all the fruit on her very established nectarine and apricot trees, she decided it was her best option.

“I have a beautiful garden and, aesthetically, the fruit trees looked really nice, but they were so big and I realised it would be too much work to prune and net them every year,” she said.

“Matt from Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area taught me how to net my cherry tree and I got a lovely big crop of cherries, so I decided to keep that and my potted lemon trees.”

Fran said it was a “big relief” to have her trees removed as part of GSPFA’s free tree removal program.

“I’m quite confident in being able to manage what I’ve got now,” she said.

“It won’t be so labour intensive for me, and it’s cleared my conscience that if I do sell my property, I’m not giving anyone else the problem.

“There’s so much beautiful, cheap fruit available to buy here that there’s no point struggling on with a tree that’s too much for you; you’re better off to have a native or something.

“There’s plenty of other nice flowering things you can have in your garden that will attract the bees and the birds without the fruit.”

Fran encouraged anyone who needed advice or information about fruit fly, to get in touch with the fruit fly community support officers Matt Capp and Tricia Witney

“Matt was easy to talk to, knowledgeable and very helpful – I couldn’t fault him and I’d recommend him to anyone who needed help,” she said.

Victorian residents living in the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area can have their unwanted fruit trees removed for free by a professional arborist. The Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly Program is supported by the Victorian Government.

To register for the program, and for many more tips to help control Qfly in your garden, contact call 03 5022 0327 or visit [www.pestfreearea.com.au](http://www.pestfreearea.com.au).

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