

# Fruit Fly Murray Valley Advisory Group

## Meeting 18 - 19/12/22

Members of the Fruit Fly Murray Valley met in December to guide and advise on the delivery of the Murray Valley regional program. Key topics included a Sustainable Fruit Fly in Murray Valley beyond 2025 position paper, review of the regional communication and engagement plan and the draft new technology assessment and implementation plan.

### Sustainable fruit fly management in the Murray Valley beyond 30 June 2025

The members discussed, reviewed and endorsed the draft position paper that records the Murray Valley region's position on fruit fly management beyond the implementation of the current Victorian Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025.

The Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025 has documented its position on the management of established pests such as Queensland fruit fly, as primarily the responsibility of land managers.

Given this position of the Victorian State Government, a requirement of the Fruit Fly Murray Valley Regional Fruit Fly Program 2021-2023 grant funding is to explore options for the development of a sustainable fruit fly management model.

The group endorsed the draft position paper to be made available for public consultation. The key points captured in the paper include that:

- Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) is now established in Victoria and New South Wales including within the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area.
- In the last ten years, commercial horticultural land managers have significantly increased their knowledge and skills to manage Qfly and are meeting their responsibilities as land managers.
- Through the FFMV program, land managers in the wider community (e.g., residential properties) have been supported to increase their understanding of fruit fly management. This approach seeks to support horticultural industries through better management of off-farm Qfly populations within the region. Adoption of effective fruit fly management within the wider community is varied.

- There is no guarantee of ongoing funding from the state government to support a coordinated community-based program, such as the FFMV, beyond the current commitment to 30 June 2025.
- Growers and industry are meeting their on-farm responsibilities for fruit fly management and should not be responsible for funding continued work off-farm and paying for the community at large.
- A funding mechanism coordinated at a state or national level is needed for a coordinated community-based program.
- Without government support, community-based programs to address off-farm fruit fly risk creators will end.

The draft paper will be distributed to stakeholders for public consultation in January 2023 and submissions on the paper are due by **5pm on Friday 24th March 2023**



The Fruit Fly Murray Valley program is supported by the Victorian Government



## Fruit Fly Murray Valley regional communication and engagement plan 2021 - 2025

The members discussed and reviewed progress against the current communication and engagement plan.

The members recognised the progress against the plan up until 30 November 2022 including the delivery of:

- 48 social media posts with a reach of over 64,390
- 10,067 visits to the FFMV website
- 71,028 views of FFMV videos through YouTube
- 34 articles in newspapers, and 12 radio interviews associated with 9 media releases
- 1,970 radio, 5,912 television and 77 newspaper advertisements
- 8 grower newsletters
- 15,767 pieces of educational or awareness raising printed/promotional material distributed
- 37 events attended, engaging with 1,760 people.

General communication activities are no longer considered the most efficient use of resources. It was agreed that a small-scale general communication program will continue in 2023/24 phasing to a fully targeted approach in 2024/25.

### Are you with us?

For more information call (03) 5022 0327 or visit [fruitflymv.com.au](http://fruitflymv.com.au)

## New technology assessment and implementation plan

A requirement of the Fruit Fly Murray Valley regional program 2021-2023 grant funding is to develop a new technology assessment and implementation plan.

The FFMV Advisory group reviewed current and recent technologies and, consider the following to have potential application at a regional level:

- Releasing parasitoids for the control of Qfly in Victoria.
- AUSPestCheck.
- Demographic mapping across gardening communities to inform urban and peri-urban plant biosecurity engagement strategies.
- New genomic tools.
- Host reproduction number for fruit fly management.
- Improved traps targeting female flies.
- Trapping efficacy in table grape vineyards for Area Wide Management.
- Smart Trap forecasting Daily Accurate Fruit Fly Forecast.
- The CUBE: strategies to control fruit fly in home gardens.
- Strengthening the weakest link in peri-urban Medfly suppression.

## Malathion chemical review

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority has published the proposed regulatory decision for the reconsideration of malathion, an insecticide used for the control of various pests including Queensland fruit fly.

Public consultation on the proposed decision is open until 23 February 2023.

For more information visit: [www.apvma.gov.au/node/12586](http://www.apvma.gov.au/node/12586)



### Next meeting

16 February 2023