

GREATER SUNRAYSIA FRUIT FLY GOVERNANCE GROUP

MEETING 12 • 02 DECEMBER 2021

The Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly Governance Group meetings are held online.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks was extended to David Daniels from Citrus Australia who resigned from the group in November. David has served on the group since it was first formed in early 2019, including two terms as Chair. David's constructive contributions will be missed.

Michael Tripodi the deputy chair was elected as the new chair of the group. Michael will hold the position until 31 March 2022 or the date of the endorsement of the new terms of reference, as part of Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025 grant delivery.

QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2025

The Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly group are currently developing a Queensland fruit fly communication and engagement plan for 2021-2025. The group agreed of the following key messaging for 2021-2025:

- We are learning to live with Queensland fruit fly, and together we can reduce its impact on our horticultural industries and community.
- Clean and beautiful fruit is up to all of us/it's up to all of us to protect our food. We have the tools to control fruit fly in our gardens and on our farms.
- Queensland fruit fly is now one of the pests we need to control as part of our annual pest management programs.

- We can harvest our fruit with confidence by taking timely action to control fruit fly before it becomes a problem in our garden, orchard or vineyard.
- Queensland fruit fly is here to stay, but we can still keep exotic fruit flies out of our region and prevent their devastating impact on our food.
- All the information and resources you need to control fruit fly in your garden/orchard/vineyard is available online.

The group also agree on the key strategies to be delivered under the plan, including; updated branding, a new website, development of a quality image bank, articles from guest experts in grower newsletters, utilising agronomists and scouts, building on work with peak industry bodies, collaborating with other fruit fly groups, and investigating ways to continue to reach younger age groups.

The plan will be finalised by 31 March 2022.



GREATER SUNRAYSIA FRUIT FLY GOVERNANCE GROUP MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

With funding from a new source aligned to Victoria's Fruit Fly Strategy the governance group membership and the terms of reference are required to be renewed and updated.

The group took this opportunity to take stock and look at the way the Governance Group is working and discuss any opportunities to make the most of member's valuable participation in the group.

The group agreed that as the purpose of the Governance Group is to guide and advice on the development and delivery of the Greater Sunraysia regional program it would be more applicable to call the group an advisory group in preference to a governance group.

Group members are responsible for representing key stakeholder organisations in the region. The following group composition was endorsed:

- Citrus Australia
- Sunraysia Citrus Growers Group
- Summerfruit Australia
- Dried Fruits Australia
- Murray Valley Winegrowers
- AusVeg
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Mildura Rural City Councils
- Western Local Land Services
- Australian Table Grape Association
- Swan Hill Summerfruit Association
- Agriculture Victoria.

It was also suggested to extend invitations to the Avocado and Olive industries.

The updated terms of reference will be finalised by 31 March 2022.

USING NATURAL ENEMIES TO CONTROL QUEENSLAND FRUIT FLY

Paul Cunningham the Research Leader for the Invertebrate and Weeds Sciences Group at Agriculture Victoria provided a presentation to the group on new research being conducted to explore the use of parasitic wasps to control Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) populations in Victoria.

Qfly has a host of natural enemies in its native range of north-east Australia, including parasitic wasps, or parasitoids, which can suppress populations. These key predators are rare or absent in southern states, where Qfly populations are increasing.

Agriculture Victoria is leading a national collaborative research project in fruit fly biocontrol, funded by state and federal governments, Hort Innovation, and the horticulture industry. The project is exploring the use of fruit fly parasitoids as biocontrol agents to manage Qfly populations as part of an area-wide integrated pest management approach.

These parasitoids target the eggs and larvae of the fly, which means they complement practices such as bait spraying, mass trapping and sterile insect releases that target adult insects.



NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 17 February 2022.

CONTACT US

03 5022 0327

gspfa@mildura.vic.gov.au

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

