



GREATER SUNRAYSIA FRUIT FLY GOVERNANCE GROUP

MEETING 8 • 19 NOVEMBER 2020

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

Membership

The group welcomed Trevor Ranford from Summerfruit Australia. Summerfruit Australia is the national industry body for stone fruit growers, working closely with government, growers, and supply chain partners to maximise profitability for the industry. Trevor, along with current member Michael Tripodi from Swan Hill Summerfruit Development Association will provide valuable insight and contributions from both a regional and national perspective.

David Daniels (Citrus Australia) and Michael Tripodi (Swan Hill Summerfruit Development Association) were endorsed as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively for the 2020/21 year.

The Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly Governance Committee Terms of Reference 2020/2021, were formally noted as accepted, a copy of the terms of reference is available on the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area website www.pestfreearea.com.au/about

National Fruit Fly Council – Christina Cook

Christina Cook the manager of the National Fruit Fly council joined the meeting to discuss key issues and priorities for growers in the region.

In recent months Christina has been engaging with various industry groups and associations across Australia to gather on-the ground information on fruit fly issues.

She has currently held eight to nine workshops, including meeting with the Victorian Regional and State Fruit Fly Coordinators to gather initial information on Victorian priorities.

Based on the meetings to date Christina was able to provide a preliminary list of key issues that have been identified for growers when it comes to protecting production. These included:

- Off farm control
- Knowing / applying best practice
- Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) including a national plan for SITPlus
- Chemical limitations
- Incursion / outbreak

The group reinforced that these are key issues facing growers highlighting that:

- Off farm management in urban and peri-urban areas as a major priority for growers in the region.
 - Further collaboration between State and Local Governments would allow a better area wide management approach to fruit fly.
 - When considering off farm management, engagement with sectors of the horticulture industry that are not significantly impacted by Queensland fruit fly (Qfly). These industries could aid in reducing the pressure of Qfly at regional levels by ensuring Qfly is managed on their properties.
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Queensland fruit fly update – Narelle Beattie

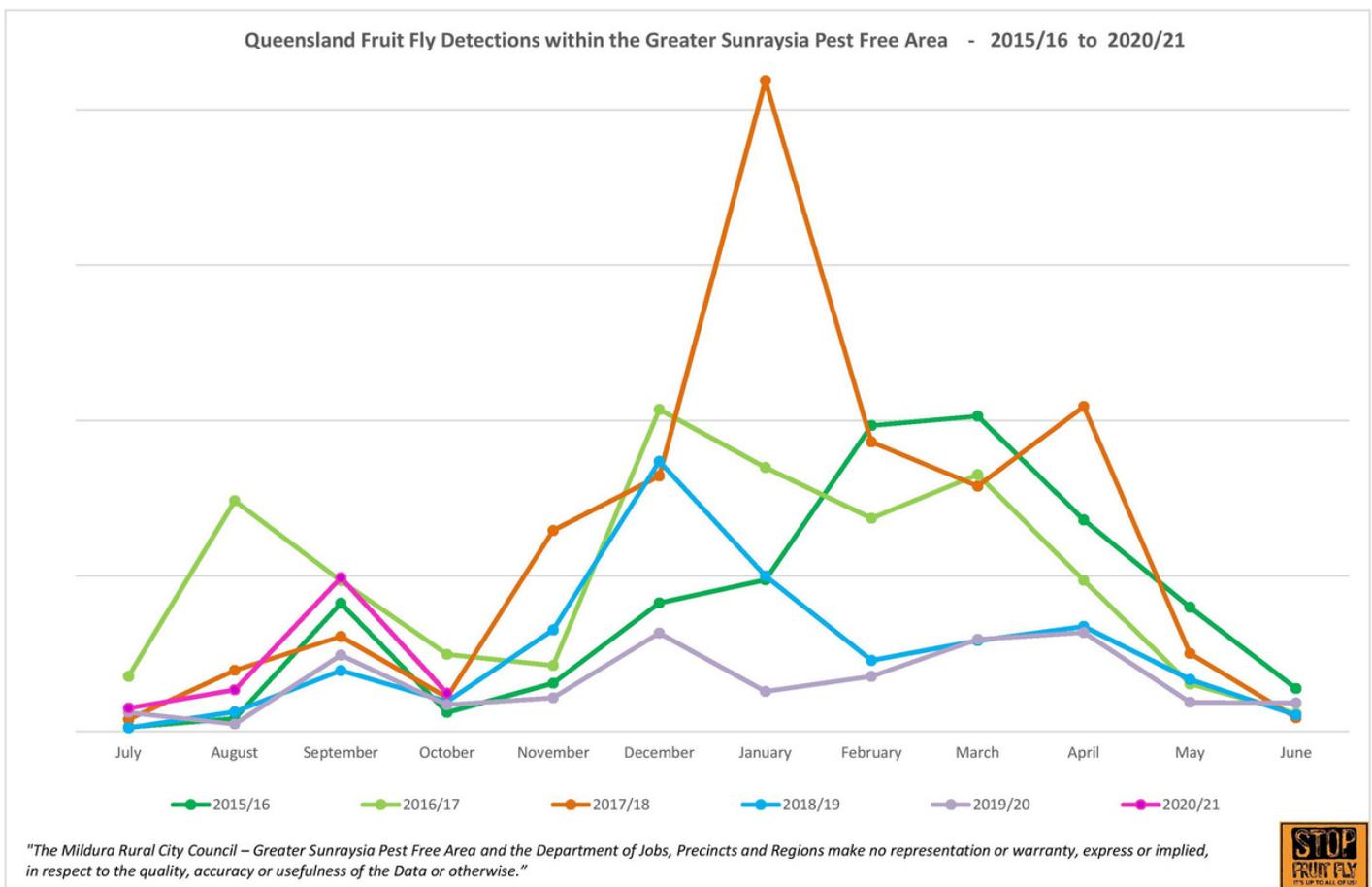
Narelle Beattie, the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area Regional Coordinator provided an updated on the current Qfly surveillance trap trends. The spring peak for Qfly in 2020 was the highest recorded since 2016 (see graph below presented at the meeting). The spring peak are flies that have survived the colder winter months, and are ready to mate to start off the next generation.

Unfortunately it is expected, that these high numbers in September may eventuate into an increased number of flies over the summer period. It is reasoned that these high numbers are in part linked to the current La Niña weather pattern. The hot and dry conditions experienced for the past two years in the region had also suppressed Qfly numbers to a low baseline in comparison.

Discussion Paper for the Proposed Victorian Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025'

The group held a brief discussion regarding the Agriculture Victoria Discussion Paper for the Proposed Victorian Fruit Fly Strategy 2021-2025. On 4th November the group provided an official submission to Agriculture Victoria on the proposed strategy and immediately prior to the meeting members of the group attending a consultation session on the strategy. Within both the written submission and at the consultation session the group sought further clarification on a number of points within the strategy.

Agriculture Victoria is expected to provide feedback on 33 submissions received and the questions raised in the consultation session early in 2021. If you would like any further information on the discussion paper please contact Tara Hewitt, Senior Project Officer Plant Health, Agriculture Victoria at tara.n.hewitt@agriculture.vic.gov.au.



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NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for 18th February 2021.

