



## Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area

33 Madden Avenue,  
PO Box 1751 Mildura  
Victoria 3502  
Ph: 03 5022 0327

### **Frequently Asked Questions – Tree removal program**

#### **Am I eligible for the tree removal program?**

All urban and private dwellings (i.e. not associated with commercial production) in rural areas within the Victorian section of the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area, are eligible for assistance to remove host trees from their properties.

#### **Why are only Victorian Residents eligible?**

As of the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018 the GS PFA and its programs, including the Tree Removal Program are fully funded by Agriculture Victoria (Victorian State Government) and thus we can only work within the Victorian region.

#### **What do I have to do to get my trees removed?**

It's very simple. All you need to do is ring the PFA office on (03) 5022 0327 or email

[info@greatersunraysiapfa.com.au](mailto:info@greatersunraysiapfa.com.au) and answer a few simple questions about your property and the trees:

- Do you own the house? Yes/no If it is a rental, we require permission from the owner.
- Is this a residential house (i.e. not associated with a commercial horticulture farm)?
- Contact Number
- Street Address
- Number and type of trees? (E.g. 2 Plums, 1 loquat)
- Where are the trees located? (e.g. Backyard, front yard)
- How big are the trees? (E.g. 1-2 m / 2-3m / 3-4 m / 4-5 m >5 m)
- Are the trees easily accessible? (e.g. pedestrian access only, through garage, locked gate, laneway access)

This information will be collected by the PFA and forwarded to one of our contractors who will make direct contact with the home owner to organise a suitable time to inspect /remove the trees. The payment for removal will be managed between the contractor and the PFA.

#### **What type of fruit trees?**

While all fruiting trees have the potential to support QFF, the PFA has prioritised the following types of fruit trees as they pose the greatest risk:

- Loquats
- Stone fruit (apricots, peaches, nectarines, plums, cherries)
- Pome fruit (apples, pears, quinces)
- Pomegranates
- Persimmons
- Fig
- Mulberries
- Tropical fruits (guavas, feijoas, mangoes)
- Citrus (mandarins, oranges, grapefruit, lemons, cumquats, limes, tangelo).

Other trees for example prickly pear, olives, Lilly Pilly, walnuts and avocado's will be considered by the PFA based on risk.

#### **How long is the funding available?**

Until June 2020 or when the funds are exhausted.



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### **I rent a property, but I am sick of cleaning up rotting fruit? Am I eligible?**

Funding is available for rental properties. As a tenant you will need to discuss this with your land owner/ or real estate agent. We need to have authorisation from the home owner (or their agent) before trees can be removed. We encourage all home owners to take part while funding is available.

### **Is it compulsory?**

No. The program is voluntary and is available to people who have decided that managing for QFF is too difficult; too expensive; and too time consuming.

### **What about my neighbour's trees?**

We are unable to manage requests for tree removal from anyone other than the landowner. You can inform the landowner of the tree removal program and encourage them to contact us. Otherwise if you know of a tree that is not being managed or has infested fruit please contact your local council in the first instance and ask for the local laws or civic compliance department. Mildura and Swan Hill Councils have local laws that require land owners to manage fruit trees.

### **What will the contractor do?**

At a time agreed with the landowner the contractor will cut the tree at the base and paint the stump with roundup to prevent regrow. They will mulch all plant material including infested fruit and remove from site. Please note, no stumps / roots will be removed by the PFA contractors.

### **Is the tree removal program for free?**

The cost for removal will be covered by the GSPFA for house blocks in urban areas or towns, however there are funding limits and conditions do apply.

There is limited funding available and to make sure we can provide assistance to as many people as possible and not exhaust all funds prematurely some conditions do apply. Sites may attract high costs if there is a large number of trees to be removed; where there are very large trees; or where there are access issues that require additional manual labour to remove the tree from the site. If the job is more involved and costs more than has been provided to other participants within the program it will require special consideration by the PFA. The Tree Removal Contractors will provide the PFA with a quote for the cost of works and the PFA will consider the quote in the context of the risk posed to the surrounding commercial properties, the sites will be assessed on a case by case basis. The PFA will notify the individual of the outcome of this decision. The intention is to provide as much assistance possible to as many people as possible and addressing high-risk areas as a priority.

### **Can I use my own contractor and get the PFA to reimburse the cost?**

No. Because there is limited funding and high risks associated with tree removal activity all works must be managed by registering through the PFA office and using the PFA-preferred contractors. Reimbursements will not be considered through this program.

### **Why not commercial house blocks?**

Commercial properties will have their own risk-management strategies in place that reduce the population of QFF and prevent the spread on-farm.