

National fruit fly-related activities stocktake 2003-2008

Background

Fruit flies are the single biggest impediment to production and trade of host horticulture species. This is reflected in the level of activity and resources devoted to operational and regulatory activities, research and development and market access projects.

All fruit fly activities span the quarantine continuum. Current activities for fruit fly management are often jurisdictional or species based, resulting in overlaps and gaps in the management of fruit fly in Australia.

The National Fruit Fly Strategy and Priorities Project will determine the most viable, cost effective and sustainable national approach to fruit fly management for the longer term. Using a national approach the Strategy will create a structure greater than the sum of the current parts, to make Australia the model, internationally, for effective fruit fly management.

The recommendations of the National Fruit Fly Strategy will be put to Plant Health Committee for stewarding through Primary Industries Standing Committee and Primary Industries Ministerial Council.

To ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the extent and cost of existing fruit fly management, the Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer has conducted a stocktake exercise to feed into the Strategy.

Purpose

To collate fruit fly related activities conducted within Australia for the five years 2003 to 2008 as baseline data for the National Fruit Fly Strategy and Priorities Project.

Coverage

The following statements summarises the coverage of the dataset:

- Projects or ongoing activities relating to fruit fly species of economic concern to Australia's horticultural industries conducted between 1 July 2003 and 30 June 2008. Most of the project-based work is funded by industry and government in partnership via research bodies. Most of the ongoing activities are funded by government.
 - Projects that commenced prior to the period, but finish during the stocktake timeframe are recorded just for the period of the stocktake. This explains some apparently small total budget figures for some research projects.
 - Projects commencing during the period and due for completion post 30 June 2008 are recorded for the duration of the stocktake and in addition each financial year thereafter. However the total stocktake value is based on only the proportion of the project undertaken during the stocktake period.

- All programs and projects listed as part of the stocktake are located within Australia or undertaken by Australian organisations in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Both ongoing programs and research and development projects are covered.

Data issues

- All data has been collected and verified directly from contributors, using a standardised data collection form. Any data gaps or inconsistencies are the responsibility of the contributors.
- Where a project was funded by a research and development funding body, data was often collected from both sources, and both parties were contacted to verify the data, and create if necessary an amended record, based on input from both parties.
- All data contributors and funding entities agreed to release all their activity data to the National Fruit Fly Strategy. It was also agreed by all parties that summary level data only could be distributed to all contributors to the project (organisations and funding bodies) and the Plant Health Committee¹ that commissioned the project.
- Where a '0' occurs for the value of the project, this has been the result of a contributor not releasing or completing financial data relating to the particular project.
- Projects have been classified on the basis of categories identified in the National Fruit Fly Strategy and Priorities Project background discussion paper and the workshop held in August 2006. The Strategy has four sub-groups to reflect this structure. In addition another hierarchy has been created to further classify Stocktake activities. It is recognised that hierarchies could be devised in a number of ways, and this may be an issue taken up by the Strategy.
- Project information was relatively accessible for government funded projects and those funded jointly by government and industry by research and development entities. Activities of grower committees, private consultants and local government were extremely difficult to capture despite promoting the project via major professional bodies and through the rural press (predominantly ABC radio).
- Funding data for research and development projects was easily verified, as specific allocations are made to each project. Calculations of funding of ongoing government projects were less precise as fruit fly is often a part, albeit a significant part of a wider program, for example operational aspects of border control and surveillance, public awareness programs, regulatory and/or market access activities.

¹ Includes the Domestic Quarantine Market Access Working Group, which is a sub-committee of Plant Health Committee.

- Different organisations used different methods to calculate activity budgets. The information was provided on the basis of 'best estimate'. In some instances funding levels have remained the same, despite increasing costs.
- Research and development funding bodies also account for budgets in different ways. Where in-kind contributions are not included in funding allocations, the actual cost of projects could be 15-25% higher.

Full dataset

Data was sought for each activity articulating:

- Project title, objective and description
- Performance indicators
- Resourcing – staff, capital and other
- Funding source
- Beneficiaries
- Consequences of not undertaking activity
- Contact details

Summary level results

The stocktake has identified:

- 129 fruit fly-related projects and ongoing activities worth \$128,689,069 for the five year period 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2008.
- In addition, funded projects worth \$3,204,219 will proceed beyond 30 June 2008 up to 30 June 2010.

Summary report

Attached to this paper is the summary level data for each activity identified in the stocktake.

Acknowledgements

The Office of the Chief Plant Protection Officer wishes to acknowledge the input from all data providers in providing the original data, verifying and releasing the data to the Stocktake Project.

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