

Media Release

The Hon Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Agriculture

Minister for Resources



Wednesday, 1 July 2020

PROTECTING VICTORIAN HORTICULTURE FROM FRUIT FLY IMPACTS

Victoria's key fruit production regions will continue to be protected from the destructive impacts of Queensland fruit fly with an extension of funding from the Victorian Government.

Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes today announced a further \$1.72 million in grants in a one-year extension of the Managing Fruit Fly in Victoria Action Plan 2015-20, allowing regional groups to continue the successful implementation of their area wide management programs.

Moira Shire will receive \$522,800, Agribusiness Yarra Valley \$178,840 and Mildura Rural City Council \$511,900 to implement regional action plans for 2020-21 on behalf of Regional Governance groups, while also receiving funding for regional coordinators.

Queensland fruit fly is present in Victoria and poses a significant threat to our horticulture industries – however populations of the pest have been decreasing since work began on delivering the action plan.

The Managing Fruit Fly in Victoria Action Plan is a collaborative effort between industry, community and government to improve fruit fly management.

It improves productivity to ensure the high quality produce Victoria is famous for, and benefits the economy with better market access and trade opportunities which protect people and jobs.

Through the action plan, regional groups have been taking part in preventative activities that include the removal of thousands of unwanted host trees and the regular monitoring and control of fruit fly hot spots.

Industry and regional groups will be involved in reviewing the future strategic direction of fruit fly management in Victoria.

This builds on the Government's commitment to grow Victoria's food and fibre exports to \$20 billion by 2030, through ensuring Victoria's reputation for safe, premium quality produce and investing in our biosecurity system.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Agriculture Jaclyn Symes

"Biosecurity is everyone's responsibility, and it's been fantastic to see the work of groups in Sunraysia, the Goulburn Murray Valley and the Yarra Valley step up to manage Queensland fruit fly."

"We know everyone working together is the most effective way to reduce the impact of Queensland fruit fly on our local produce, home gardens and Victoria's horticulture industry."