



Fruit West is the pome, citrus and stone fruit Producers' Committee of the Agricultural Produce Commission

28 January 2014

Ref: Fenthion Senate Enquiry Fruit West Cover 280114

Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

PO Box 6100

Parliament House

CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

**REF: IMPLICATIONS OF THE USE OF FENTHION ON
AUSTRALIA'S HORTICULTURAL INDUSTRY SUBMISSION**

Dear Sir/Madam,

Fruit West was established in October 2009. Fruit West is the Pome, Stone and Citrus Fruit growers committee of the Agricultural Produce Commission (APC). The APC is governed by The Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988 in Western Australia.

Fruit West represents all 534 commercial growers from these producer groups in Western Australia.

With Mediterranean fruit fly endemic in WA, our members deal with significant pest pressure each season particularly from the zones close to and north of Perth.

Please see our submission attached for the senate enquiry into the implications of the review on fenthion.

Kind regards

Nardia Shaw

Executive Officer

for the

FRUIT WEST Management Committee

Submission to: Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport

Implications of the use of Fenthion on Australia's Horticultural industry

Terms of Reference

The implications of the restriction on the use of Fenthion on Australia's horticultural industry, including:

- a. the roles and responsibilities of relevant departments and agencies of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in relation to the regulation of pesticides and veterinary chemicals;
- b. the short- and long-term impact of the decision on stakeholders;
- c. the effectiveness and sustainability of chemicals other than Fenthion to manage fruit fly;
- d. transition arrangements following the restriction on the use of Fenthion, including Area Wide Management; and
- e. any related matters.

Background

Fruit West

Background

Fruit West is the Pome, Stone and Citrus Fruit Growers Committee of the Agricultural Produce Commission. The Committee (Fruit West) is appointed by the APC. Fruit West includes all pome, stone and citrus growers in the state.

Application of fee-for-service funds support growers based on funds collected from each commodity. For example 16% of all Fruit West funds collected come from the state's stone fruit growers.

All growing areas in WA have some level of Medfly concern. However fruit growers in the hills to the east of Perth are particularly challenged. Use of fenthion has allowed Hills growers the opportunity to function and be profitable. Use of fenthion generally allows medfly management without using other control measures.

Fruit West (and its previous form The West Australian Fruit Growers Association) have monitored the review process of organophosphate agrichemicals. The review started in 1994 and from 2007 Fruit West has informed growers, in both print and by grower presentation (Attachment 1) about potential effects on the industry.

Fruit West in consultation with Hills growers established a project "Sustainable Management of medfly without the use of cover sprays" It is funded by Fruit West, SAL, HAL and DAFWA and commenced in 2012. Fruit West's contribution to this project is \$50,000 per year. The project is restricted to the Hills. It has focussed on monitoring fly numbers and estimating the effectiveness of baiting, trapping and hygiene activities on both numbers and fruit damage.

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Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) although available to WA growers is yet to be applied on a commercial basis.

Fruit West in partnership with DAFWA have sponsored two visiting international specialists in 2013 to address urban and industry community groups on fruit fly management. Presentations related to alternative controls / methods.

With DAFWA, community engagement has been directed in areas adjacent to commercial growers and has been ongoing. This has included delivery of awareness sessions by DAFWA along with collaboration on removal of neglected orchards.

Fruit West in partnership with DAFWA have supported and attained permits for use of alternative chemical controls¹ or devices² to enable trial work to be conducted or for immediate grower use. This will take time to assess and implement.

Fruit West has supported the development of a permit to encompass all the known trap - baits, lures and toxicants to get away from the previous system of registering each trap based on its ingredients (about to be released).

At the end of 2013 the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (Fruit Fly) Management Plan was gazetted (Attachment 2) under the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act (BAM) 2007 (BAM). Currently it is gazetted for Hills Shires only. It is an offence for landholders in these Shires not to comply with fruit management as directed by the plan. Compliance capacity is still to be developed but this will offer the community and growers in those areas legislative capacity to limit fruit fly development.

Terms of Reference

- a. the roles and responsibilities of relevant departments and agencies of Commonwealth, state and territory governments in relation to the regulation of pesticides and veterinary chemicals;

DAFWA staff are managers of the Medfly project referred to above.

The APVMA is bound to undertake risk assessment considered best practice by World Health Organisation (WHO). We have been concerned in the way the chemical review decisions have been delivered. This has created confusion in the horticulture industry.

The federal Department of Agriculture oversees this function which is delegated to State Departments for compliance monitoring.

The capacity of States to deliver on compliance appears reduced with budgetary constraints.

A National Fruit Fly coordination group is essential to accumulate all aspects and activities associated with fruit fly in Australia. Full funding of a National Fruit Fly Strategy is essential.

¹ Cover sprays *clothianidin* (Samurai), *thiacloprid* (Calypso), and baits *spinosad*, *spinetoram*

² Lure and kill device MagnetMed™

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b. the short- and long-term impact of the decision on stakeholders;

In the short term growers may not be able to accumulate sufficient experience using alternative management techniques. This will have a profound negative effect on those businesses.

Longer term, use of other techniques will see, at elevated input cost, eventual management.

A critical issue will be adequate transition time. While a few growers may have arrived at this point, additional time to allow trialling and familiarisation of alternative techniques is essential.

Introduction of other techniques eg Release of Insects with Dominant Lethality - RIDL medfly, is a longer term opportunity that may complement or replace SIT. But this is a much longer term opportunity.

c. the effectiveness and sustainability of chemicals other than Fenthion to manage fruit fly;

Other chemicals to manage fruit fly have been registered and are being trialled but are yet to be proven to be as effective as fenthion in controlling the larval instar stages in fruit.

Although these other chemicals are not as effective as fenthion, when used in conjunction with alternative controls (monitoring, baiting, trapping, orchard hygiene et al) control seems possible from experience to date.

d. transition arrangements following the restriction on the use of Fenthion, including Area Wide Management;

Of concern has been the difficulty in engaging community and local government where efforts to date with resources available have only had marginal success.

Time and resources is an essential component of the transition process.

A national strategy as part of any transition arrangement is essential.

Funding of compliance for the BAM(Fruit Fly) Management Plan is an essential component for AWM and its implementation.

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28th January 2014

Medfly Articles in Magazines				
Vol	Publication	Edition	Pages	Article Title
2	WA Fruit Grower - WAFGA	Aug-97	Front Page	Long Term vision to free Australia of Medfly - Workshop
20	WA Fruit Grower - WAFGA	Feb-99	Front Page	Funding boost for medfly control - development of project for develop and transfer of sustainable control management procedures
11	WA Fruit Grower - WAFGA	Oct-07	Front Page	Fruit Fly a real problem - engaging community - Sonya Broughton
12	WA Fruit Grower - WAFGA	Feb-08	Front Page	Controlling Medfly in WA - APVMA reviewing dimethoate and fenthion
	WA Fruit Grower - WAFGA	Jan-09	Page 3	DAFWA Field Tests for New Fruit Fly Lures - Biolure
	WA Grower	Mar-11	17	Use by' dates approaching for dimethoate and fenthion
2.1	Fruit West Magazine	Winter 2011	15	Life is just peachy - Mark Wilkinson mediator between growers and government
2.3	Fruit West Magazine	Summer 2011	22	Medfly control without Dimethoate & Fenthion
3.1	Fruit West Magazine	Autumn 2012	Page 13	Increase in Queensland fruit Fly detections
			Pages 22-23	Medfly battle ground needs new tactics
3.2	Fruit West Magazine	Winter 2012	Pages 8 - 9	Fenthion cover sprays still weapon of choice
			Page 9	Engaging the Community
			Page 10 - 11	Mixed results from Magnet Med Trial
			Page 12	DAFWA - Supporting industry in the fight against Medfly
3.3	Fruit West Magazine	Spring 2012	Pages 8 - 9	Fight steps up against Medfly
			Pages 10 - 11	Recommended actions for area-wide management
			Page 13	Winning against fruit fly in Hawaii
3.4	Fruit West Magazine	Summer 2012	Pages 17	New label instructions for the use of fenthion
			Page 19	Medfly research stepping up
			Page 20 - 21	Explaining the sterile insect technique for fruit flies
			Page 24	Ceretrax Advertising
			Page 27	Karragullen Expo

Medfly Articles in Magazines				
Vol	Publication	Edition	Pages	Article Title
4.1	Fruit West Magazine	Autumn 2013	Page 13 - 15	Mediterranean Fruit Fly community engagement
			Pages 16 - 17	Understanding fruit fly traps
			Pages 18 - 19	The Medfly life cycle
			Page 20	Queensland fruit fly hovering in the wings
			Page 21	Low Chill Australia Field Day - Queensland
4.2	Fruit West Magazine	Winter 2013	Page 14	Fruit Fly Information sessions with Dr Don McInnis Hawaii
			Page 15	Keep up the fight against fruit fly
			Page 16	Mass trapping research wrap-up
			Page 18	Community Effort against Medfly in Carnarvon
4.3	Fruit West Magazine	Spring 2013	Page 17	Fruit West position on Medfly and biosecurity risks
			Page 18 - 19	Hills Medfly research update
			Page 20 21	Getting the jump on Medfly this season
4.4	Fruit West Magazine	Summer 2013	Page 14	Apples confirmed as overwintering hosts for Medfly
			Page 17	Response to criticism of international experience of the AWM of f/fly
			Pages 26-27	Neglected orchards can take time to fix

Fruit West Newsletters (Medfly Content)	
Date	Topics Covered
Oct-11	Neglected Orchards, Karragullen Expo 2011
Nov-11	Stone Fruit Launch
Jan-12	Medfly Control - without Dimethoate, Dinner at HOIG
Apr-12	Stone Update - Medfly Issue FW is continuing to work with stakeholders
May-12	Medfly Update - with reports that fenthion will not be available next season
Jun-12	Medfly - Please refer to Winter 2012 magazine for focus articles
Jul-12	Advancing Medfly control in WA
Sep-12	Medfly - What is Fruit West doing
Oct-12	Medfly Update - APVMA Meeting 18 Oct, Research Ramps Up Karragullen Expo 2013
Nov-12	Medfly Update - Bayers position on APVMA new use instruction for Fenthion
Dec-12	Medfly Update - Shire Council Engagement, Community Engagement, Engaging Landholders
Jan-Feb 13	Medfly Update - Shire Council Engagement, Community Engagement, Neglected Medfly Host Update
Mar-13	Medfly Update - Neglected Hosts, Improving Management of Pest FF in Aust, DAFWA Presentations
Apr-13	Medfly Update - Shire Meetings, Overseas Experts
May-13	News and Events - Garden Week and Overseas Specialist presentations Kalamunda and Bunbury
Jun-13	Upcoming events - Dr Nikos Papadopoulos Lesmurdie and Kirup
July-Aug 2013	No Specified Fruit Fly comms
Sep-13	Medfly edition - Research, Jump on Medfly this season, community engagement, unmanaged host sites
Oct/Nov 13	Medfly Update – Dr Sonya Broughton – Baiting and the Samurai permit

Medfly Meetings and Presentations		
Date	Activity	Venue
01/06/2011	HOIG Medfly meeting/presentation by Gavin Foord - Area Wide Management	HOIG
19/09/2011	Fruit West Presentation to DOIG and a request for info from growers about chemicals currently used	DOIG
16/02/2012	Quarterly Dinner held at HOIG Fruit West functionality and Medfly discussion - G Foord, Committee and Staff	HOIG
06/09/2012	Fruit West/HOIG Medfly Management - Industry Support	Hills Cold Store
07/09/2012	Medfly Sterile Insect Options - Ben Darbyshire, Mark Wilkinson and Graham McAlpine	Hills Cold Store
26/02/2013	DAFWA/Fruit West presentation to HOIG	Forrestfield
01/03/2013	Community Engagement DAFWA/Fruit West	Lesmurdie
23/04/2013	DAFWA/Fruit West Dr Don McInnis presentation - Lesmurdie	Lesmurdie
24/04/2013	DAFWA/Fruit West Dr Don McInnis presentation - Bunbury	DAFWA Bunbury
19/06/2013	DAFWA/Fruit West Dr Nikos Papadopoulos - Lesmurdie	Lesmurdie
24/06/2013	DAFWA/Fruit West Dr Nikos Papadopoulos - DOIG	DOIG
25/09/2013	Meeting in Jarrahdale for residents DAFWA Medfly project	Jarrahdale
26/11/2013	SITPlus™ presentation to Fruit West Committee by Project Director Dan Ryan	DAFWA Bunbury
	Regular (monthly) Fruit Fly Management Meetings with DAFWA 2012/13	DAFWA Sth. Perth

— PART 2 —

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

AG401*

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT ACT 2007

BIOSECURITY AND AGRICULTURE MANAGEMENT (FRUIT FLY) MANAGEMENT PLAN 2013

Issued by the Minister under section 45 of the Act.

1. Citation

This management plan is the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Fruit Fly) Management Plan 2013*.

2. Commencement

This management plan comes into operation as follows—

- (a) clauses 1 and 2—on the day on which this management plan is published in the *Gazette*;
- (b) the rest of the management plan—on the day after that day.

3. Terms used

“**relevant land**” means land in an area described or set out in clause 4;

“**Fruit fly**” means *Ceratitis capitata*;

“**appropriate insecticide**” means an insecticide registered by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority for the control of fruit fly.

4. Area to which management plan relates

This management plan relates to the areas of the State comprised within the local government districts of the shires of Swan, Mundaring, Kalamunda, Gosnells, Armadale and Serpentine/Jarrahdale

5. Purpose of management plan

The purpose of this management plan is to provide for the control of Fruit fly in each area to which this management plan relates.

6. Measures to be followed under management plan

The owner or occupier of land in the relevant area on which fruit trees are growing must take the following control measures—

- (a) Once in every 48 hours all fruit that is infested with fruit fly must be picked from each fruit tree and treated or destroyed using one of the methods listed below—
 - (i) Mulching to a pulp consistency
 - (ii) Boiling
 - (iii) Spraying with an appropriate insecticide
 - (iv) Solarisation by placing in a sealed plastic bag or equivalent container placed in direct sunlight for at least 7 days
 - (v) Placing in water in a container with a film of kerosene or oil for at least 7 days
 - (vi) Burial to a depth of at least 1 metres
 - (vii) Freezing for 24 hours
- (b) Once in every 48 hours all fallen fruit, whether infested or not, must be either treated on the ground by mulching to a pulp consistency or spraying with an appropriate insecticide or be gathered from the ground and immediately treated or destroyed using one of the methods listed in paragraph (a).

Note: A person who fails to comply with this clause commits an offence under section 30 (3) of the Act.

Date: 28 October 2013.

K. BASTON, Minister for Agriculture and Food.