# National Fruit Fly Council – Overview

The National Fruit Fly Council (NFFC) brings together governments, growers and research funders to oversee implementation of the [National Fruit Fly Strategy](https://www.preventfruitfly.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/National-Fruit-Fly-Strategy-2020-25.pdf)and to drive delivery of a cost-effective and sustainable approach to managing fruit flies across Australia.

The Council provides leadership and advice on strategic policy and RD&E issues about fruit fly to a range of stakeholders including the National Biosecurity Committee, Plant Health Committee, government, Hort Innovation, industry, the research community, and the public.

The role and functions of the Council are to:

* Coordinate and provide leadership for fruit fly efforts across Australia, promoting a shared responsibility among key stakeholders for strengthening and harmonising the Australian fruit fly management system.
* Maintain the National Fruit Fly Strategy to present a contemporary view of the direction and key activities necessary to strengthen the capability, capacity, and resilience of Australia’s fruit fly management system and for maximising outcomes from RD&E investments.
* Advise on the contribution of proposed fruit fly research to the advancement of the National Fruit Fly Strategy and engage with research groups to understand and stocktake research activities.
* Advise on strategic fruit fly management issues and activities, promoting consistency with international standards, minimisation of duplication, and support for Australia’s market access opportunities.
* Oversee the implementation of the National Fruit Fly Strategy, including reviewing and reporting on progress to stakeholders.
* Develop and implement a National Fruit Fly Council communications strategy.
* Engage with relevant industry, government, research, and community stakeholders to develop positions that reflect the national interests in fruit fly management that are integrated into the national biosecurity system.

The Council is convened through Plant Health Australia (PHA), the national coordinator of the government-industry partnership for plant biosecurity in Australia. The combined experience of members of the Council ensures that the group understands and considers different crop types and fruit fly management systems from across Australia’s horticulture production regions, as well as research capacity, and market access issues. Council membership has also been selected to ensure that there is direct experience with the in-field management of both Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly.

The NFFC is seeking expressions of interest from industry members to join the Council.

## Membership of the National Fruit Fly Council

The NFFC comprises:

* Chair
* More than 14 Council members including 6 industry members
* PHA members.

The NFFC Executive Committee comprises:

* Chair
* Six Council members
* PHA Member

Role and responsibilities of Council members

The role of Council members is to:

* Attend regular meetings (both face to face and virtual) as required and actively participate in the Council’s work.
* Build and maintain relationships with government, relevant community groups, affected industries and national forums to fulfil the functions of the Council.
* Consider national and international trends; best practice; current industry, government and community capability and experience; scientific knowledge; practicalities; and public opinion.
* Actively seek to understand the different perspectives and needs across geographic areas and commodity groups and incorporate these into advice made in the national interest.
* Advise on the health of the national fruit fly system and issues that need to be addressed to implement the National Fruit Fly Strategy.
* Champion participation and solutions to emerging national fruit fly issues within the national biosecurity system.
* Promote the objectives and achievements of the NFFC through their networks.

## Code of conduct

All members of the National Fruit Fly Council and its Working Groups have an obligation to:

* Act honestly, in good faith, and exercise powers for their proper purpose.
* Constructively contribute and provide an informed perspective on matters discussed.
* Act in the national best interest.
* Respect confidentiality requirements.
* Declare any Conflicts of Interest (see below).

## Conflict of interest

* The Council member warrants, to the best of their current knowledge, that they do not have a conflict of interest with their duties under the NFFC.
* All Council members complete a Conflict of Interest Declaration at commencement. If during the period of membership any changes to an actual, perceived, or potential conflict of interest arises, the Council member must notify the Manager NFFC of that potential change and agree to take action to resolve where required.

## The expression of interest (EOI) process

The EOI process aims to identify industry members who have:

* Capacity to support the broader NFFC objectives.
* Appropriate skills, knowledge, and attitudes to complement the NFFC.
* Agreed to abide by the NFFC Code of Conduct.

## Time commitment

Council members will be required to attend at least two (2) full NFFC meetings per year (approx. 3-7 hr per meeting including both face to face and virtual). This estimate does not include meeting preparation or travel time. Occasional consultation may also be required as necessary on an ad hoc basis.

Members of the Executive Committee will be required to attend at least four (4) additional meetings per year (approx. 2-3 hr per meeting including face to face and virtual). Occasional consultation may also be required as necessary.

Selection of Council members

* PHA will use this EOI to advertise for new Council members. Applicants will be asked to provide a brief resume and covering letter outlining suitability for the role as well as a letter supporting applicants for the role. Completed documents should be sent via email to fruitfly@phau.com.au.
* The length of membership will initially be at least three years.
* Applications and questions will be collated by PHA.
* Selection of new Council members will be through a selection committee comprising representatives from:
	+ Hort Innovation
	+ The Commonwealth
	+ PHA
	+ An Independent Grower.

**Selection criteria**

1. Influential communicator – and ability to lead without an authorising environment.
2. Demonstrated experience at participating in national bodies in agriculture, agribusiness, biosecurity, or other relevant plant industries fields.
3. Strong working knowledge of either the Australian fruit fly system, or national issues in horticulture, or the ability to rapidly gain this knowledge.
4. Outstanding interpersonal, stakeholder and relationship management skills.
5. Exemplary personal drive and integrity.
6. Ability to attend/meet all NFFC requirements.

**For further information or enquiries**

Please direct enquiries to Stu Burgess (Manager, NFFC) via email in the first instance; sburgess@phau.com.au.

**To apply**

Please send applications to fruitfly@phau.com.au.

Applications will be assessed on merit by taking skills, experience, capacity, and understanding of the strategic approach for the objectives of the National Fruit Fly Council, into consideration.

**Applications are due by close of business on Thursday, 29 February 2024.**

**Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by Friday, 22 March 2024.**