

## 1. STATUS REPORTS

### 1.1 STABLE FLIES

**LOCATION:** WHOLE OF SHIRE  
**FILE:** HLT/10  
**AUTHOR:** WAYNE HARRIS - PRINCIPAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER  
**REPORT DATE:** 30 MARCH 2009

In the period commencing from the previous Information Bulletin Status Report, the Shire's Principal Environmental Health Officer received 11 complaints of Stable Fly activity in the following areas:

- Beermullah 4
  - Caraban 4
  - Lennard Brook 2
  - Wanerie 1
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# **APPENDIX 1**

**THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC  
NOTES OF MEETING  
WITH  
HON T REDMAN, MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE & FOOD  
AT  
SHIRE OF GINGIN COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
21 APRIL 2009**

**PRESENT**

Hon Terry Redman, Minister for Agriculture & Food  
Dr Steve Thomas, Principal Policy Adviser to the Minister  
Cr Wayne Fewster, Shire President, Shire of Gingin  
Mr Simon Fraser, CEO, Shire of Gingin  
Mr Jim Dodds, DOH  
Mr Dave Peckitt, DOH  
Mr Bob Paulin, DAFWA  
Ms Suha Ali, City of Wanneroo  
Mr Wayne Harris, Shire of Gingin  
Mr Shannon Farmer  
Mr Bob Wilson, Chairman, SFAG  
Mrs Jo Ottaway, Secretary, SFAG  
Mr Reg Beale, SFAG  
Mrs Kate Goh, SFAG  
Mr Bernard McCarthy, SFAG  
Mr Bill White, SFAG  
Mr Rod Withnell, SFAG

**APOLOGIES**

Hon Grant Woodhams, Member for Moore  
Mr David Rosling, City of Swan  
Ms Melissa Rourke, Shire of Dandaragan  
Mrs Anne Sibbel, SFAG

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Bob Wilson, Chairman SFAG, welcomed those present and invited attendees to introduce themselves.

**VIDEO PRESENTATION**

A ten minute video presentation of stable fly infestation of livestock, wildlife and humans was shown.

**DISCUSSION OF REQUIRED OUTCOMES**

**1. Raw Poultry Manure Management**

Dr Thomas advised that it was Government policy that the use of raw poultry manure in horticulture would be banned by December 2011.

It remained to be determined how this would take place, but the Government was committed to it.

## 2. Responsibility for Stable Fly Control

J Dodds and D Peckitt advised that -

- the Health Act is being revised and its emphasis will be on human health
- The stable fly problem is seen as an agricultural and/or environmental issue
- The present Fly Eradication Regulations under the Health Act are outdated
- New, updated legislation and regulations, including increased penalties, are required to adequately address stable fly breeding in the horticultural industry
- VegetablesWA should be involved in monitoring the properties of its grower members to ensure best practice is being carried out with regard to use of raw poultry manure and management of crop waste, and ensuring growers abided by the regulations

**No decision was made regarding which Government department will take responsibility for the stable fly issue into the future**

## 3. Regulation and Enforcement

S Fraser recommended –

- On-the-spot infringement notices for initial fly breeding and raw poultry manure offences
- Substantially increased penalties for prosecuted offences
- Infringement notices and increased penalties form part of any updated regulations, regardless of which State Government department assumes responsibility for the stable fly issue in the future, to reduce the burden on Local Government staff, time and resources
- The "Burden of the Proof" should be founded on the "Balance of Probabilities" as opposed to "Beyond reasonable Doubt". For example, if maggots are evident it should be prima-facie evidence that fly breeding has occurred, without the need for samples to be collected and the maggots to be entomologically analysed.
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The Shire of Gingin representatives confirm that their commitment to "good governance" on behalf of its residents and would continue to commit time and resources to the stable fly effort.

S Ali spoke of the difficulties in obtaining successful prosecutions for offenders as proof was very difficult to obtain. She advised the City of Wanneroo would support upgrading of the regulations.

The Minister queried the level of support of the other Councils covered by the Health (Poultry Manure) and Fly Eradication Regulations. SFAG Chairman B Wilson responded that the priority was to upgrade the regulations and put legislation in place. The other Councils would then be required to comply with the legislation.

**No decision was made regarding which Government department will take responsibility for upgrading the Regulations.**

#### **4. Industry Good Practice**

Dr Thomas asked the SFAG Committee if they considered the VWA's *Good Practice management of manures and vegetable crop residue* to be a worthwhile model that could be used for compliance and enforcement purposes.

The SFAG Committee, which had had input into the document, agreed it was a good starting point, however it would require some review and strengthening prior to becoming adopted as a number of its requirements were "advisory", rather than "essential". Dr Thomas agreed.

#### **5. Waste Management**

No discussion took place on the *Draft Organics Strategy and Interim Standards for Organics Applied to Land* as there was insufficient time.

#### **AGREED ACTIONS**

- Use of raw poultry manure in horticulture will be banned by December 2011
- VWA Code of Practice to be reviewed, strengthened and made enforceable prior to it being adopted in legislation
- Dr Thomas will meet with representatives of the SFAG Committee in the near future to continue discussions

#### **CLOSE**

SFAG Chairman Bob Wilson thanked Minister Redman, Dr Thomas, the Shire President and Chief Executive Officer, and all those present for attending and contributing to the discussion.

A special vote of thanks was extended to the Shire of Gingin for the use of the Council Chamber, providing the lunch, and for their longstanding and continued commitment regarding the stable fly problem.