

2014

December 2014

SFAG sent letters to all the Shires covered by the SFMP asking them to provide more stable fly information to the public on their websites.

September 2014

Regulatory Reference Group (RRG) meeting on 4 September was attended by SFAG Chairman and Committee representative A Sibbel. City of Joondalup will be removed from the SFMP, and Sh of Capel has asked to be included.

August 2014

SFAG was advised a trial of rpm usage had been conducted by DAFWA in November at Lovegrove's Turf Farm at Bidaminna on Cowalla Road. DAFWA had sought, and was given, approval from the Shire of Gingin, however the matter had not gone before the Council.

SFAG expressed concern to the Shire of Gingin that this trial (of a banned substance in the Shire of Gingin) had been allowed to be conducted by the very agency that was responsible for upholding the SFMP regulations under the BAM Act.

August 2014

AAA Egg Co Free Range Poultry Farm

SFAG wrote to the Minister for Environment stating SFAGs concerns re the free range poultry farm, and asking for an independent expert to investigate and report on the potential for this development to breed stable flies, the rationale being that, even though the development was likely to eventually proceed, SFAG would be on the record as having expressed concerns about it.

June 2014

SFAG Chairman and Committee representatives, Dr David Cook and Sh of Gingin CEO Jeremy Edwards attended Meeting with Minister for Agriculture Hon K Baston on 4 June to discuss :

Stable Fly Management Plan : Compliance and Penalties

- SFAG representatives registered their concern that DAFWAs compliance process of education and warning notices leading on to prosecution was not working.
- Specifically, a recent incidence of proof of rpm being used in the Shire of Gingin had not resulted in a prosecution by DAFWA.

- Discussion ensued on the provision within the SFMP for penalties for offenders to be applied. SFAG (as a member of the RRG for the Plan) had requested this be done at the time of compilation of the Plan, but advice from the Parliamentary Counsels Office had prevented it being provided for in the Plan itself.

The Minister -

- **undertook to investigate how the formalising of penalties as part of the SFMP took place, and**
- **recommended this matter be raised by SFAG at the review of the SFMP, scheduled to take place in June 2014.**

Central Reporting System (CRS) by DAFWA

SFAG Chairman explained -

- lack of sf reporting by the affected community
- confusion by the affected community whether to report sf to local government or DAFWA
- lack of feedback to the affected community
- mapping of sf infestations for identification by inspectors

and requested a CRS be set up and operated by DAFWA.

The Minister -

- **undertook to investigate if a system could be set up similar to one already in place for Fisheries.**

Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs)

SFAG Chairman advised the Minister that SFAG had begun investigations regarding suitability of an RBG for sf management and control.

June 2014

Lindsay Strange (DAFWA) attended SFAG meeting and gave presentation on Recognised Biosecurity Groups (RBGs). Significant points re RBGs include :

- Can be used for a single species, ie stable flies
- \$460,000 remains in the NRM fund for groups to apply for to fund an RBG
- \$5000 is available immediately for groups to pay for a consultant to ascertain if RBGs are suitable for them
- State government matches funding dollar for dollar until 1 July 2015
- After 1 July 2015 funding arrangement changes to a ratings scheme
- DAFWA is committed to assisting RBG groups with compliance issues

April 2014

On 22 April SFAG Chairman and Committee representatives attended Meeting with Shire of Gingin CEO Jeremy Edwards and EMCS Sam Camillo. Discussions included ranger responsibilities under the BAM Act, and a Central Reporting System managed by DAFWA.

April 2014

On 15 April SFAG Chairman and Secretary attended Shire of Gingin Council Meeting and made presentation on 3 points of concern re AAA Egg Co development application for free range poultry farm on Cowalla Road.

March 2014

Bugs 4 Bugs representatives D Loxley and G Izzett attended SFAG Committee meeting and made presentation on spalangia wasps (*spalangia endius*).

SFAG recommended further spalangia trial sites in WA, specifically in isolated hot spots such as Caraban.

February 2014

Member for Moore Hon Shane Love MLA attended SFAG Committee meeting.

Mr Love explained that future funding of the sf issue by DAFWA is uncertain (despite sf being a Declared Pest under the BAM Act) and that SFAG should consider how the issue will be managed in the long term, including the option of forming a Recognised Biosecurity Group (RBG). He acknowledged, however, that sf management and control was a complicated matter, and was not convinced that an RBG was the appropriate way forward.

February 2014

SFAG Meeting with Terry Hill (DAFWA) on 27 February was attended by SFAG Chairman B Wilson, SFAG Committee members A Sibbel and B White, Dr David Cook, I McPharlin (DAFWA) and Megan Hevron (DAFWA).

Discussions included suitability or otherwise of RBGs, Horticulture Australia research project, RRG reviews, rpm management and declining DAFWA resources.