

2015

November 2015

D Telfer (DAFWA) reported to SFAG's November meeting that the reporting App was working well. Although some initial technical problems were experienced, SFAG received numerous positive comments from members who were reporting via the App.

November 2015

SFAG conducted an independent review of its Public Liability and Association Insurance policies to ensure the Committee is adequately insured.

October 2015

As a result of SFAG lobbying for a more effective reporting mechanism to authorities, introduction of new DAFWA reporting App, **My Pest Guide Reporter**. SFAG publicised the App via the group's website and the local press.

September 2015

On 10 September SFAG representatives attended meeting of the Stable Fly Regulatory Reference Group (RRG) at DAFWA. Agenda items included update of last three years research and development by Dr D Cook, proposed amendments to the SFMP, and roles and responsibilities of parties. SFAG again raised the matter of non-compliance with the SFMP, and regulation of "conditioned" manures.

August 2015

On 31 August SFAG representatives took part in an excursion to Lovegrove's Turf Farm at Bidaminna on Cowalla Road. Trials conducted by Dr D Cook and DAFWA of pulverised manures amended with lime, flailed and spread thinly and watered in, were inconclusive, and a second round of trials were to take place.

SFAG wrote to K Chennell (Executive Director Biosecurity & Regulation, DAFWA) advising him that SFAG supports a second round of trials at the property, to be conducted by Dr Cook and DAFWA, and asking for SFAG to be kept informed as to progress and results.

May 2015

On 1 May SFAG representatives visited Garden Organics composting facility on Aurisch Road north of Gingin, and were impressed by the proficiency of the operation.

April 2015

SFAG invited Dr Ian McPharlin (DAFWA), who is leaving the Department, to the Group's April meeting to farewell him and express appreciation for his sf field work with Dr Cook over the last few years. Dr McPharlin was presented with a retirement gift from the SFAG Committee.

April 2015

SFAG wrote to Shire of Gingin requesting information re guidelines for "conditioned" manure. Shire of Gingin responded that there are no Australian Standards or regulatory requirements that "conditioned" manure must comply with, therefore the Shire and DAFWA do not have any guidelines for its use. The onus is on the consumer to ensure that it does not breed stable flies. SFAG representatives subsequently attended a meeting of concerned landholders, and Shire of Gingin and DAFWA representatives, at Sandy Lake Farm, Muckenburra. At this meeting it was agreed the RRG needs to revisit the definition of "treated" or "conditioned" manure to ensure it does not breed sf.

SFAG resolved to raise the matter of the regulation of "conditioned" manure at the next RRG meeting.

March 2015

On 17 March SFAG Chairman and Committee representatives met with Kevin Chennell (DAFWA) to discuss Controlled Waste legislation, DAFWA sf reporting mechanisms, "conditioned" manure, DAFWA Compliance Officer, and replacement for Dr Ian McPharlin.

March 2015

On 15 March SFAG representatives, accompanied by Dr D Cook and Jeremy Lindsay (DAFWA) visited properties at Gillingarra, Moora and Calingiri, and the Shire of Victoria Plains, to investigate the extent of sf infestation. Discussions included rotation of sf meetings, rpm traceability, human health issues and sf hotspots.

February 2015

SFAG advised by Department of Regulation (DER) that rpm is a Class 1 Landfill waste, rather than a liquid waste, therefore SFAG would need to discuss with DAFWA re getting rpm included in the BAM Act legislation.

January 2015

On 16 January, SFAG representatives attended a meeting at Caraban with Member for Moore Hon S Love MLA to discuss a mulching machinery and spraying equipment trial proposed at Tran Do property. Dr Cook and Dr Ian McPharlin are supplying scientific support to this trial, as well as conducting a new fungus trial at the same property.

January 2015

Controlled Waste Legislation – SFAG formed a sub-committee to further investigate the possibilities of this legislation being suitable for control of rpm.

January 2015

SFAG wrote to all Shires under the SFMP alerting them to the DAFWA hotline and email address for reporting sf infestations, and asking them to assist SFAG in its efforts to minimize the effects of sf on the community by providing accurate, easily accessed information on their websites.