

Dear Individual MP

STABLE FLY MANAGEMENT PLAN UNDER THE BAM ACT

Stable flies (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) were declared a pest under the Biosecurity & Agriculture Management (BAM) Act by the Minister for Agriculture & Food in October 2012 and subsequently a Regulatory Reference Group (RRG) was set up by the Department of Agriculture & Food (DAFWA) to prepare a Management Plan to control stable fly breeding. Two meetings of the RRG have been held to date.

The Stable Fly Action Group Inc (SFAG) is a member of the RRG and thus a participant in the drafting of the Stable Fly Management Plan. However, the SFAG is very concerned that no discussion or agreement pertaining to the 'on ground' implementation of the Plan, ie roles of DAFWA and/or Local Government in monitoring and auditing of properties for stable fly breeding, as well as enforcement and prosecutions for offences if necessary and, most importantly, funding and resourcing of these roles, has taken place.

The SFAG believes that in the first three years of the Management Plan's operation, the employment of trained, full time inspectors will be necessary. These inspectors will also be required to have an educational role.

In addition, the SFAG would like to suggest that a central reporting and recording website be created by DAFWA to monitor the stable fly problem efficiently.

The Group is also concerned about the time being taken to finalise the Management Plan, particularly as the current Health Regulations pertaining to the ban on the use of raw poultry manure in irrigated horticulture, an important source of stable fly breeding, expire on 1 September 2013.

We write to seek your support to resolve our concerns about the Stable Fly Management Plan. Could you please advise, **prior to the State Election**, your current position on the management of stable fly breeding, specifically regarding support for (a) the timely completion, and (b) funding for the 'on ground' implementation, of the Stable Fly Management Plan.

Your response will be published on the SFAG website www.stableflyactiongroup.org.au and Facebook page.

For further information on the SFAG Inc and measures being taken by the Group to minimise the effects of stable flies on the community, please refer to the Group's website.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Bob Wilson, Chairman, SFAG Inc on 9655 1055, or by email at chairman@stableflyactiongroup.org.au for more detailed information on these issues.

Yours sincerely
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SECRETARY
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