

Questions in respect of Stable Fly Management Plan 2019

1. Commercially derived 'treated' poultry manure in irrigated horticulture

Is DPIRD aware of this situation?

At a mid-season meeting between the Department and affected local government authorities (LGA), the Shire of Gingin raised its concerns that potentially producers were using untreated poultry manure but stating it was treated.

How does it intend to address this problem?

The Department wrote to the Broiler farm representatives raising awareness that there may have been incorrect use of treated vs untreated poultry manure and reiterating the requirements and measures under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Stable Fly) Management Plan 2019 (2019 Plan)* for treated vs untreated poultry manure use.

The appropriate method to address non-compliance with the 2019 Plan on inspection is by the issuing of letters of advice and/or pest control notices. Where non-compliance continues, LGA rangers are able to provide a full evidentiary package to DPIRD for review to determine whether prosecution is appropriate.

2. Inclusion into SFMP 2019 of an Approved Measure

Does DPIRD intend to provide resources to test and evaluate innovative new methods of stable fly control for inclusion into the SFMP? If this is the case, can this be instigated before the end of the two year transitional period? If not, why not?

The 2019 Plan was gazetted in September 2019, making the 2019/2020 stable fly season the first to be managed under the 2019 Plan.

The 2019 Plan reflects six years of research undertaken by Dr David Cook of DPIRD. Consultation on the 2019 Plan was carried out through the Stable Fly Regulatory Reference Group (SFRRG), with this group contributing to and approving the 2019 Plan in September 2018 prior to gazettal.

The SFRRG included representatives from the beef, equine, feedlot, pig, poultry, vegetable and composting industries, the SFAG, Landcare, Bullsbrook Ratepayers Association, affected LGAs, WA Local Government Association and DPIRD. The SFRRG was concluded on completion of the 2019 Plan.

DPIRD previously had dedicated funding for Stable Fly research, development of the 2019 Plan and employment of compliance officers. This ceased in September 2018. DPIRD then extended funding for a compliance officer for the 2019-20 Stable Fly season (September to May) to provide field training and support for the new 2019 requirements and compliance procedures. That funding ceased at the end of the 2019-20 season (May 2020).

A submission for new methods can be made to the Department at any time but would need to be supported by research and trialling to ensure the effectiveness of the measures contained in the 2019 Plan are not compromised. This would not need to wait until after the two year transitional period, and could be instigated at any time.

If growers do not comply with the provisions of the SFMP 2019 in regards to purchase of equipment for dealing with crop residue, what will be done about that?

From September 2021, growers will need to comply with the management measures under the 2019 Plan as the 2016 Plan measures will be no longer approved measures under the 2019 Plan. The appropriate method to address non-compliance with the 2019 Plan on inspection is by the issuing of letters of advice and/or pest control notices. Where non-compliance continues, LGA rangers are able to provide a full evidentiary package to DPIRD for review to determine whether prosecution is appropriate.

3. Non-compliance – Infringement/Prosecution of offenders against SFMP 2019

Can you advise if transferring responsibility to local government for infringement/prosecution of offenders against SFMP 2019 is progressing? When will these arrangements be finalised?

Currently, LGA rangers are able to become authorised as Inspectors under the *Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act 2007* (WA) in a restricted capacity. DPIRD provides online training courses for those LGA rangers interested in becoming authorised to undertake stable fly compliance. Under this authorisation, LGA rangers are able to undertake on the ground compliance activities, including:

- Surveillance
 - Verify compliance
 - Respond to complaints
- Issue of letters of advice
- Issue pest control notices

Full authorisation of LGA Rangers under the BAM Act, has not been pursued in the past, with a number of policy and risk matters to be considered and resolved. DPIRD has taken some preliminary steps in investigating the requirements and policies, which would need to be implemented and/or in place to support the ability for LGA Rangers to be fully authorised. LGAs will also need to assess whether the possibility of transfer of responsibility of infringement and prosecution for future seasons is desired and/or required.