

Fruit Flies stakeholder update #1

20th February 2019

In this update you will find

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Current situation

Biosecurity New Zealand is working with its industry partners to respond to two separate detections of single male fruit flies in Auckland.

On 14 February 2019, Biosecurity New Zealand found a single male Queensland fruit fly (QFF) in a surveillance trap in Devonport, Auckland.

On 19 February 2019, a single male Facialis fruit fly (*Bactrocera fascialis*) was found in a surveillance trap in Otago, Auckland. This fly is a different species to the Queensland fruit fly. The detection is not related to the current Devonport situation.

To manage the fruit flies that have been found, Biosecurity NZ has issued two separate Controlled Area Notices (CAN), one in an area of Devonport and one in an area of Otago. This restricts the movement of certain fruits and vegetables out of the Controlled Area to help prevent the spread of any fruit flies (if there are more than one).

You can download the CANs from the MPI website: <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/fruit-flies/>

Movements of all whole fruits and vegetables must meet the requirements of the Controlled Area Notices, with the exception of:

- leafy vegetables
- root vegetables
- cooked, processed, preserved, dried, frozen, and canned fruit

In both Devonport and Otago, Biosecurity NZ is setting traps to determine if these are lone specimens, or if there is a population of either fly present.

If there are no further detections, the operation in each area is expected to last 2 to 3 weeks.

Background

Queensland fruit flies spoil many horticultural crops, often making them inedible. They have been detected in New Zealand several times previously. A population was eradicated from Auckland in December 2015.

Facialis fruit flies are native to Tonga where they badly affects crops of capsicum and chilli but appear to be less harmful to other fruit and vegetables. It is a tropical fruit fly species, so New Zealand's climate may not provide an ideal home for it.

All fruit flies are difficult to catch at the border because they can arrive as eggs or tiny larvae concealed inside fruit.

Biosecurity NZ is the lead agency managing this response, in partnership with horticulture sector groups representing the kiwifruit, pipfruit, avocado, tomato, citrus, summerfruit and vegetable sectors.

For more information please refer to MPI's website <https://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/protection-and-response/responding/alerts/fruit-flies/>.

What's happening?

In Devonport

The response continues and no new QFF have been found to date. As of 1400 hours, 89 traps have been deployed in the A Zone and 80 traps have been deployed in the B Zone. Trap establishment is now complete. The A Zone traps will be inspected daily and the B Zone traps will be inspected every three days.

40 people are deployed in Field Operations as of today. Risk businesses have a presence of uniformed officers and field teams, and Liaison teams have been deployed to risk sites and Devonport Primary School.

Bin distribution is now complete with 144 bins between the A and B Zones. The first fruit monitoring collection started yesterday afternoon in the A Zone, and 9.94kg of fruit was received into FHQ laboratory yesterday evening to be processed today.

In Otara

Field crews are busy setting up a field headquarters and placing traps. As of 1400hours, 42 traps have been deployed in the A Zone. Work will proceed in the next couple of days installing bins, road signs and distributing other information materials to the public.

Movement controls on fruit and vegetables

The restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables in Devonport and Otara are:

If you live in **Zone A** (refer to the Controlled Area Notice map) –

- NO whole fruit or vegetables (except leafy and root vegetables like lettuce, cabbage, bok choy, rhubarb, broccoli, brussel sprouts, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, kumara, celery, onions, spring onions) can be taken out of Zone A. In addition, no fruit or vegetable waste (i.e. fruit skins and cores/stones, peelings etc.) or garden waste (i.e. prunings from fruit trees or vegetable garden cuttings) can go out of the area. It should either be disposed of in a home in-sink disposal unit or put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

If you live in **Zone B** (refer to the Controlled Area Notice map) –

- You must not move home-grown fruit and vegetables out of the Controlled Area. In other words produce grown inside the Controlled Area cannot be moved out of it. You are free to move commercially-purchased fruit and vegetables (i.e. fruit and vegetables brought at the supermarket) out of the area. Home grown produce waste and garden waste needs to be disposed of in Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

What you can do

If you find larvae inside fruit, or believe you have seen a fruit fly, call 0800 80 99 66.

If you live around Devonport or Otara, find out if you're in the Controlled Area. If so, you will need to follow legal restrictions around movement of fruit and vegetables. Remember – **if in doubt, don't take it out.**

Welfare support available

The impact of the Queensland Fruit Fly response may stress both you and your business. If you need more support, the following groups can help:

- [Rural Support Trust](#)
- Healthline: [0800 611 116](tel:0800611116)
- Lifeline: 0800 111 757
- Depression.org.nz or Depression Helpline: 0800 611 116
- Alcohol Drug helpline: 0800 787 797 or text 8691
- Your GP or Practice Nurse
- [New National helpline service 1737 need to talk?](#) : Call or text 1737 to contact an intervention Counsellor. 24/7 service, free, confidential, and anonymous if required.

Compensation

Anyone affected by the issuing of the Controlled Area Notice (CAN) is entitled to apply for compensation for losses incurred as a direct result of the imposition of these legal powers.

The process for applying for compensation will be advised in due course.