

Dear Industry partner

On Friday the 14th of September, Biosecurity Tasmania advised that as of the 1st of October, changes will be made to Control Area restrictions enabling growers to move and sell fruit within the Control Areas.

HOW TO ARRANGE AN ON SITE MEETING

There are a number of options available to growers including host produce movement within Control Areas, possible treatment options, the Transitional Assistance Package and Concessional Loan Scheme.

DPIPWE understands that individual growers have unique circumstances and as a result we are available to meet with you and work through the best approach for your business.

To organise a meeting please contact Biosecurity Tasmania via our Industry Liaison Officer, Lynn Broos, on 6478 4114.

CHANGES TO CONTROL AREA RESTRICTIONS

What do the changes mean for growers and industry?

- As of the 1st of October, changes will be made to Control Area restrictions enabling growers to move and sell untreated fruit **within** the 15km Control Areas.
- Existing control measures will stay in place for those properties within the 1.5km Infected Areas where fruit fly was found last summer.
- Movement of host produce from inside to outside the Control Areas is still not allowed, unless produce is appropriately dealt with under required protocols e.g. fumigation.
- Treated fruit coming into the Control Area can't then leave the Control Area
- The target date for reinstatement of the Pest Free Area status, based on the National Fruit Fly Management Protocols, is 9 January 2019.

	Infected Area	Control Area
Movement of host produce within the Area	No (unless under permit)	Yes
Movement of host produce outside of the Area	No (unless treated or packaged)	No (unless treated or packaged for transport through a CA to an unregulated market)
Sale of untreated host produce in the Infected Area	No	Yes (into the IA)
Sale of untreated host produce in the Control Area	No	Yes
Sale of untreated host produce into PFA areas (rest of Tas & WA & parts of SA)	No	No
Sale of treated host produce to rest of Australia	Yes (though a section 26 permit is required to move the fruit out of the Infected Area to the destination port)	Yes

BOUNDARY ISSUES – CONTROL AREA

Biosecurity Tasmania noted that there are potential concerns from some businesses on the boundary of Control Areas. If you are in a marginal zone, please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6478 4114 for more details.

These will be individually addressed based on the application of the National Fruit Fly Management Protocols.

TRANSITIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Transitional Assistance Program will cover:

- Treatment costs and hire of treatment equipment, labour costs, transport costs and packing or repackaging costs associated with treatment. Treatment includes fumigation. Information on the private fumigation service can be sought direct from Fruit Growers Tasmania - office@fruitgrowerstas.org.au or 6169 2059. If other treatment options are identified during on site meetings, which are accepted by the Australian Government, then these would also be included.
- Reasonable biosecurity and farm hygiene costs will be covered to reduce the biosecurity risk from any unpicked or fallen fruit. Costs covered include labour for picking fruit for disposal, where a commercial return cannot be achieved, where all reasonable endeavours have been made to secure a commercial return.
- The State Government will continue to pay for the collection and disposal of fruit.
- As an additional safety net, eligible growers in difficulty can access a 'break-even' payment under certain circumstances to assist them to continue to trade and maintain their place in the market. It is anticipated that the safety net will cover the difference between industry average cost of production (to harvest/packing shed door) and the market price achieved where all reasonable endeavours have been made to secure a commercial return. In assessing claims the market price achieved will be considered in light of market conditions at the time.
- Those in Infected Areas will have access to some additional support for reasonable out of pocket expenses in getting the crop to picking stage where a market can't be found and the product is destined for disposal. This recognises that they have greater restrictions on the supply of host produce than those in the Control Areas.

Full details on the Program will be available by 1 October 2018. The DPIPWE website www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fruitfly will be updated regularly. Please check this resource for the latest information.

CONCESSIONAL LOAN SCHEME

A new \$4 million Fruit Fly Concessional Loan Scheme facility will be offered. Applications forms will be available on the Business Tasmania website <https://www.business.tas.gov.au> shortly. If you are having trouble finding this information please contact Biosecurity Tasmania on 6478 4114

Concessional Loans will be available for eligible Tasmanian owned and operated farm businesses growing fruit fly host produce that are located within the Control Areas for:

- Operating costs necessary to restart, continue and redevelop operations whilst recovery occurs, and
- short-term working capital for the immediate season.

It is anticipated that loans of up to \$250 000 will be made available. Loan amounts will generally be no less than \$30 000. Variable concessional interest rates will apply, currently in the order of 3.40 per cent per annum, for a maximum period of three years. Interest only payments are available for the loan term not exceeding three years. Loans must be repaid in full or fully refinanced at the end of the agreed loan term. Applicants will be required to demonstrate a genuine financial need for any assistance.

Further details on the loan scheme will be made available shortly.

Rural Business Tasmania will be able to assist growers to access the appropriate program. RBT can be contacted on 1300 883 276. Further information on the services provided by RBT can be found on their website: www.ruralbusiness Tasmania.org.au/

COMMUNICATIONS

The Department will be communicating with the broader community on the importance of not moving host produce out of the Control Area. This will include, newspaper adverts, some updated road signage, new information on the DPIPWE website and social media messaging.

Work is continuing with industry to ensure biosecurity systems remain well-placed to respond to any potential future pest incursions. Industry are thanked for their support and vigilance.

Updates will continue to be communicated via email as well as being posted at www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au/fruitfly. If growers have any outstanding questions please contact Biosecurity Tasmania via our Industry Liaison Officer, Lynn Broos, on 6478 4114.