

Media Release

Peter Crisp MLA

Member for Mildura

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FRUIT FLY CONTROL REQUIRES FAST GOVERNMENT RESPONSE: CRISP

The Nationals Member for Mildura, Peter Crisp has called on the Minister for Agriculture to examine how and why Queensland Fruit Fly was discovered in a trap in Mildura, and how the Government can assist in preventing it happening again.

“The cost of that outbreak has been very high for growers and the state, and the minister needs to look at how it happened and what can be done going forward to protect our growers and the state from the high expenses involved in cleaning up a very difficult fruit fly outbreak.

“Ideally, the minister would be advised to try and trace the cause of the outbreak so that a solution that will avoid that problem in the future can be implemented.

“The frustration that this find creates for our growers, our packers, our exporters cannot be understated as it sends ripples through the entire industry, not just within the exclusion zone, but to our neighbours in South Australia and north into Euston and Robinvale.

“Fruit fly freedom status took this area a long time to achieve and keep and the horror stories of fly finds during the eighties and nineties that knocked the stuffing out of our industry are still all too fresh in the minds of many,” Mr Crisp said.

“The minister needs to meet with industry stakeholders and thrash out ideas and suggestions for safeguards to ensure our industry is protected,” Mr Crisp concluded.

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Media Contact: Peter Crisp (03) 5021 2828 or 0429 331 274