



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Our ref: eA198249
Obj ID: A5687202
Receipt: 16734721

Hon Nicola Centofanti MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Parliament House
ADELAIDE SA 5000

Dear Ms Centofanti *Nicola,*

Determination under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991*

I refer to your application made under the *Freedom of Information Act 1991* (the Act) received by the Office of the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development/Minister for Forest Industries on 11 October 2022 requesting access to the following:

"A copy of all correspondence between the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development and the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry relating to building national resilience to manage fruit fly."

Timeframe: 21/3/2022 to 11/10/2022

Accordingly, the following determination has been finalised.

I have located two documents that are captured within the scope of your request.

Determination 1

I have determined that access to the following document/s is **granted in full**:

Doc No.	Description of document	No. of Pages
1	Email dated 13 July 2022, including letter attachment from Minister Scriven to Minister Watt relating to the Building Resilience to Manage Fruit Fly package.	3
2	Email dated 5 August 2022, including letter attachment from Minister Watt to Minister Scriven relating to the Building Resilience to manage Fruit Fly funding package.	3

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au



If you are unhappy with this determination you are entitled to exercise your rights of external review with the Ombudsman SA. Alternatively, you can apply to the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT). If you wish to seek a review, you must do so within 30 calendar days of receiving this internal review determination.

For more information about seeking a review or appeal, please contact the Ombudsman SA on telephone (08) 8226 8699 or SACAT on 1800 723 767.

Should you require further information or clarification with respect to this matter, please contact Ms Cindy Roberts on 8226 2931 or email: Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

21 / 11 / 2022

From: [PIRSA:Minister Scriven](#)
To: minister.watt@agriculture.gov.au
Subject: eA197576 - Fruit Fly Management in South Australia
Date: Wednesday, 13 July 2022 10:12:00 AM
Attachments: [eA197576 - Minister Watt - Fruit Fly Correspondence .pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

OFFICIAL

Document ID: eA197576

Dear Minister Watt

Please find attached correspondence from Minister Scriven regarding Fruit Fly management in South Australia.

Kind regards

The Office of Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
Level 10, 1 King William Street, Adelaide | GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
P: +61 8 8226 2931 | **E:** Minister.Scriven@sa.gov.au



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Document ID: A5524360



Government
of South Australia

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC

Senator the Hon. Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: minister.watt@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Minister

As you would be aware, for more than two years South Australia has been combatting numerous outbreaks of both Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly) and Queensland fruit fly (Qfly) in different regions of the State.

South Australia plays a vital role as a central buffer which prevents these pests from spreading and the ongoing fight to eradicate such outbreaks is clearly in the national interest. Doing so supports a number of important national trade protocols valued at many hundreds of millions of dollars annually, which allow producers on both sides of the country to export their produce without additional treatment.

Late last year, South Australia was successfully able to eradicate eleven outbreaks of Medfly and one outbreak of Qfly in metropolitan Adelaide, a single outbreak of Medfly in Pt Augusta and three outbreaks of Qfly in the SA Riverland. Unfortunately, thirteen outbreaks of Qfly continue to pose concerns in the Riverland Pest Free Area.

Collectively, these responses have constituted the largest eradication program for fruit fly ever conducted in Australia and have come at a cost of over \$75 million to the South Australian Government.

I welcome confirmation in the current budget papers that the Commonwealth Government intends to invest \$30 million to build national resilience to manage fruit fly. The announcement of this funding late last year noted that it is vital to ensure regions like the Adelaide Hills and SA Riverland can continue to access lucrative export markets as a result of South Australia's fruit fly free status.

The announcement noted that the Building Resilience to Manage Fruit Fly package provides \$30 million over three years and correspondence with your department has confirmed that, while a national scoping study must be undertaken to confirm that investment is in the national interest, at least \$20 million of those funds are ear-marked for expenditure in South Australia, which is in recognition of the significant work that's already being done in the national interest and the urgent need to improve fruit fly resilience in this State.

Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries

GPO Box 1671 Adelaide SA 5001
Telephone 08 8226 2931 | Email minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

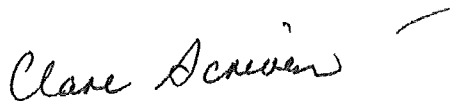


I'm advised that my Department has been working closely with yours to confirm the projects that are of national significance and warrant funding in South Australia under the Building Resilience to Manage Fruit Fly funding package.

In particular, urgent investment in post-harvest infrastructure, sterile insect capacity (for both Mediterranean fruit fly and Queensland fruit fly), necessary upgrades to South Australia's permanent quarantine stations, investment to implement greater capacity to undertake random and mobile quarantine checks on arrival in South Australia and implementing improvements to the system which supports quarantine entry conditions for fruit fly produce into South Australia, are all vital pieces of work to support the significant investment that the South Australian government continues to make.

I thank you for committing to nationally fund activities such as these and look forward to hearing favourable news on the results from the national scoping study soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare Scriven". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Clare Scriven MLC
MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
MINISTER FOR FOREST INDUSTRIES

From: [Minister Watt](#)
To: [PIRSA:Minister Scriven](#)
Subject: Correspondence from the Hon Murray Watt [SEC=OFFICIAL]
Date: Friday, 5 August 2022 4:22:51 PM
Attachments: [Letter to the Hon Clare Scriven MLC.pdf](#)
[Letter to the Hon Clare Scriven MLC Fruit Fly.pdf](#)

Good afternoon,

Please find attached correspondence on behalf of Minister Watt.

Kind regards,

Emmerson

Office of Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Minister for Emergency Management
E: Minister.Watt@agriculture.gov.au | P: (02) 6277 7190

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**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT
MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

MC22-004977

The Hon Clare Scriven MLC
Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development
Minister for Forest Industries
GPO Box 1671
ADELAIDE SA 5001

minister.scriven@sa.gov.au

Dear Minister *Clare*

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 July 2022 regarding fruit fly management in South Australia. I appreciate the importance of this matter and the impact fruit fly continues to have on your growers and exporters, as well as the significant cost to the South Australian Government.

I acknowledge South Australia's essential role in maintaining the East-West fruit fly distribution profile, which is of national significance for international trade in horticultural produce across Australia.

I recognise and support the efforts to eradicate fruit fly outbreaks which are in the national interest, and I would like to congratulate South Australia on the successful eradication of multiple Medfly and Qfly outbreaks. I also acknowledge the substantial cost that the South Australian Government has spent to date on eradication of fruit fly and the ongoing cost to manage the remaining outbreaks.

In December 2021, the Australian Government announced the \$30 million Building Resilience to Manage Fruit Fly funding package (the package). This package will provide funding over three years to help stop the spread of fruit fly through roadblocks and quarantine stations, drive down pest pressure in vulnerable areas by expanding Sterile Insect Technique (SIT) capability and grow horticulture export opportunities through critical infrastructure in key production areas nationally.

I understand there is a growing interest across various jurisdictions in expanded SIT capability and use nationally. Strengthening SIT capability is one of the key deliverables under the package, and any new SIT infrastructure projects may require support from South Australia due to the experience and expertise with the Port Augusta facility, which has been instrumental in responding to outbreaks around the country.

I appreciate your departments involvement in the scoping study currently being undertaken to determine viable options for infrastructure projects to be funded under the package. The priorities you have outlined, including investment in post-harvest infrastructure, sterile insect capacity and upgrades to South Australia's permanent quarantine stations, are in line with national priorities are currently being worked through as part of the scoping study.

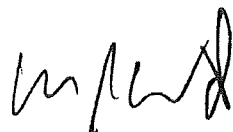
State and territory government involvement and support for all proposed infrastructure projects will be essential to projects being approved and funded by the package. The \$20 million allocated for South Australia under the package will be administered directly by the Commonwealth Treasury through specific purpose payments to the South Australian Government via a Schedule agreed under an existing Federation Funding Agreement (Environment).

Completion of the scoping study with investment recommendations is expected later this year. Following this, negotiation of the Schedule will take place with key jurisdictions. Final agreement and signature is then required by the Commonwealth and state and territory ministers.

Fruit fly management is a nationally shared responsibility, and collaboration between states, territories and affected industries through support and investment is essential to a sustainable and effective national approach. I look forward to the benefits of cooperation between the Australian Government and South Australian Government on this initiative.

Thank you again for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely



MURRAY WATT

24/8/2022