

Protecting greater Sunraysia from fruit fly

Lyn Jacka, Project Coordinator, Vic DPI-Mildura

The Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area (PFA) Project was initiated by VicDPI to assist local fruit industries gain broader access to international markets sensitive to fruit fly, without costly disinfestation treatments.

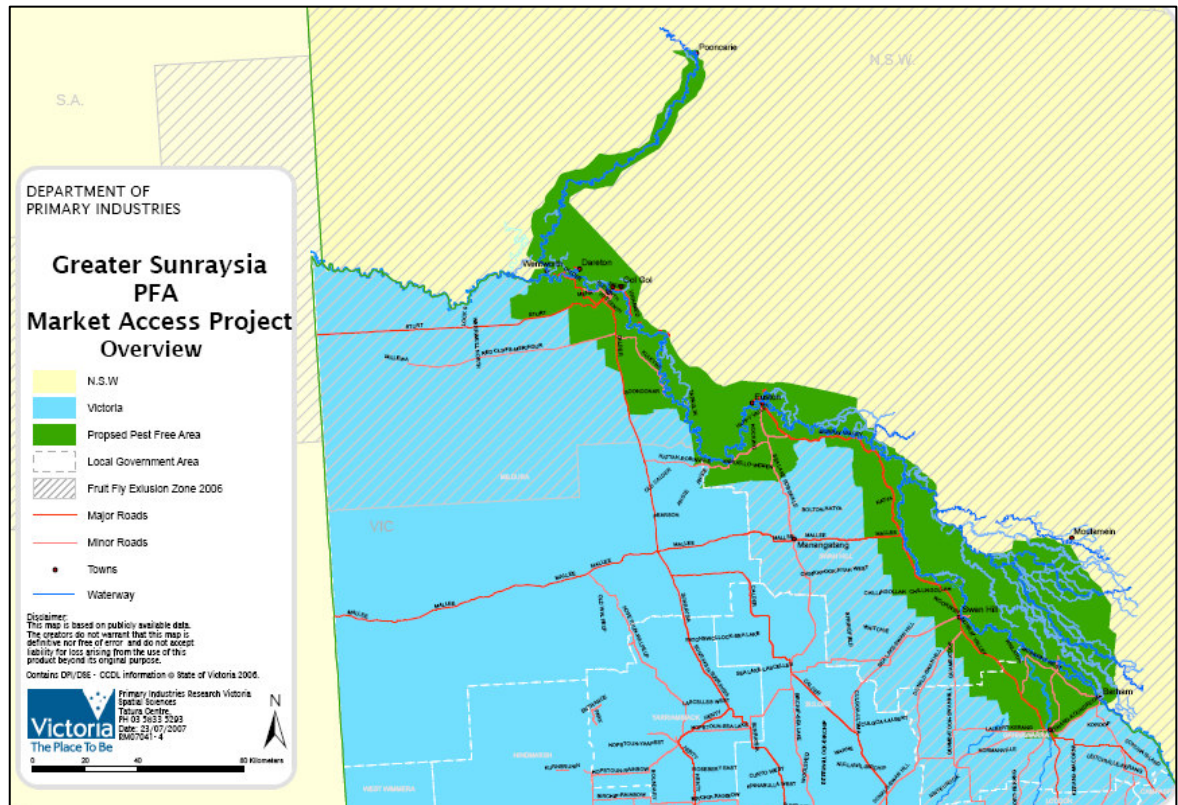
The current Fruit Fly Exclusion Zone (FFEZ) operating in the Sunraysia area does not meet the needs of local industries and recent Queensland fruit fly outbreaks in some regions of the FFEZ have affected

bilateral trade discussions with potential trading partners, including Japan and Taiwan.

Through the World Trade Organisation (WTO), phytosanitary standards relating to fruit fly management have now been internationally endorsed and Standard ISPM-26 (Pest Free Areas for Fruit Fly) is internationally accepted as the basis for assessing fruit fly programs. The PFA project aims to alleviate phytosanitary concerns and present a stronger technical position for current and future trade proposals.

Over the next two years, the requirements of the new standard will be met through a number of changes to Australia's regional fruit fly program. This will include:

- Defining the borders of the PFA (see attached map) to ensure legislative support regarding the movement of fruit into the area
- Improved quarantine awareness signage on major roads entering the PFA
- Generating a heightened level of awareness of the impact that fruit fly has on the travelling public, local community and industry



Above: Newly developed map depicting the pest free area boundaries

Senior staff from both NSW and Victoria DPI, Biosecurity Australia and local fruit industries are working together on this project and to date have achieved a number of objectives. These include:

- Providing supporting information to Biosecurity Australia for trade discussions with Japan and Taiwan
- Developing a legislative framework to support the existence of the PFA (in both NSW and Victoria)
- Identifying sites for new quarantine signs and fruit amnesty bins
- Developing fruit fly awareness activities to support the project

For more information contact:

Lyn Jacka
Project Co-ordinator
P 5051 4500
M 0438 376464
E lyn.jacka@dpi.vic.gov.au

Riverlink Newsletter Spring 07, No. 82