

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS
ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR THE 2015/16 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
FRIDAY, 26 JUNE 2015

THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS ASKED –

In regards to Budget Paper: 2; Page: 546; Item: Significant issues: Biosecurity – stable fly

- 1. How much was expended on the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management (Stable Fly) Management Plan implementation in 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 by local government area?*

Answer:

Year	CF Funding	External	Total
2013/2014	\$160,692	\$133,464	\$294,156
2014/2015	\$277,708	\$168,000	\$445,708

The stable fly regulations cover twelve declared shires however concentrates in the Gingin, Chittering and Swan Shires as the most active shires for stable fly. It is impractical to allocate amounts by shire basis as research, education and information are general in nature.

- 2. What Components of the plan were implemented in the Swan region and what were the outcomes in 2014/2015?*

Answer:

The deliverables for the program include education, communication, research and compliance. Components of all these were delivered within the Swan area, including working with a vegetablesWA Field Officer communicating with Vietnamese growers, and Swan Shire Environmental Health Officers in regulation and inspection.

3. *How much was exon the Biosecurity and Agricultural Management (Stable Fly) Management Plan implementation in 2015/2016 and the forward estimates?*

Answer:

DAFWA expects CF expenditure on stable fly management to be approximately \$200,000 in 2015/16, and for each of the two following years.

DAFWA is also seeking external funding from industry and local government for stable fly research of around \$130,000 in 2015/16, and similarly for each of the two following years. This external funding is not yet confirmed.

4. *What components of the plan will be implemented in the Swan region in 2015/16?*

Answer:

Subject to external funding, DAFWA will continue to research appropriate ways of controlling stable fly in horticultural precincts in the northern peri-urban suburbs. Key components of this will be the demonstration of new techniques and research projects; working with shires to respond to fly complaints; and working with stakeholders across community and industry to educate, communicate and regulate.

5. *What strategies did the Department implement during the outbreak of stable fly in West Bullsbrook following the bushfires earlier this year?*

Answer:

Following the fires in mid-January 2015, some horticulture crops were damaged beyond recovery: stable fly activity was found in some crop species that are not normally susceptible. This was caused by a combination of rapidly rotting, semi-baked vegetable matter and sufficient moisture providing ideal stable fly breeding conditions. DAFWA inspected a number of damaged crops in the area and obtained assistance from a local landholder to bury and apply pesticide to the damaged produce that was breeding stable fly in high numbers.

DAFWA is reliant on feedback and information from the public and local shires to bring to notice any local outbreaks. Prior to the January 2015 fire, there had not been a complaint from the Swan Shire – including Bullsbrook – since mid-September 2014. That complaint led to there being 12 property inspections for potential stable fly breeding sites in Middle Swan, as well as 7 inspections in the Bullsbrook area and several at Herne Hill. These inspections found very low numbers of stable fly.