



2023 QFly Bayswater Biosecurity Response

Table Grape Producer Reimbursement Scheme

March 2023

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Glossary

APC	Agricultural Produce Commission
Committee	APC Table Grape Producers Committee
Cold storage treatment cycle	The minimum time for cold storage treatment as prescribed by the <i>Approved Measures QAN Bayswater Outbreak</i>
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
Fruit	Table grapes
Qfly	Queensland Fruit Fly (<i>Bactrocera tryoni</i>)
Non-related party	A service provider or party that is not owned or controlled the service recipient / producer.

Background

In February 2023, several male Qfly were detected in Bayswater as part of an ongoing surveillance program run by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD).

Qfly is a destructive fruit pest found in some other parts of Australia, but not established in Western Australia. It attacks a wide range of fruit and fruiting vegetables including citrus, banana, grapes, stone fruit, olive, avocado, mango, passionfruit, tomato, capsicum and chilli.

Under the Australia's National Fruit Fly Management Protocol, the detection of five or more male Qfly, a single gravid female or a Qfly larvae triggers an incident response and DPIRD declared a level 2 response on 1 March 2023.

Eradication activities for the new detection have commenced with DPIRD staff out in the field undertaking baiting and surveillance activities. There have been no new detections in commercial table grape growing areas, but some commercial areas will be impacted if they are located within the Quarantine Area.

Quarantine Area (at 17 March 2023)

As part of the response, a Quarantine Area (QA) – 15km radius from the detection point was formally gazetted on 17 March 2023. The Qfly pest free area status has been suspended across the QA and all Qfly host material grown in the QA requires treatment before it can leave the area.

The QA is divided into two main zones: the Corrective Action Zone and the Export Assurance Zone.

- *Corrective Action Zone*

The Corrective Zone is the 1.5 km area surrounding the epicentre of detections. Residents located within this zone are required to comply with the following Quarantine Area Notice requirements:

- Qfly host fruit cannot be removed from or moved within any part of the 1.5 km Corrective Action Zone, unless treated (cooked, frozen or solarised) or processed.
- All ripe or ripening host fruit on plants or trees must be picked, and all fallen host fruit must be removed every three days.
- Fruit can be eaten, or must be treated, bagged and then binned in residential waste bins.
- Residents must provide DPIRD personnel access to their premises to inspect and bait host plants twice a week until further notice.

- *Export Assurance Zone*

The Export Assurance Zone is a 15km radius around the detection points – the area of the QA that is not part of the Corrective Action Zone.

Scheme Authority

The Table Grape Producers' Committee was established in 1991 and is authorised pursuant to *Agricultural Produce Act 1988* to undertake functions from s12(1)(a) to s12(1)(l) and s12(1)(m).

Relevant to the incursion, the Committee is authorised under s12(1)(b) to expend funds to:

control or develop the means of controlling pests and diseases if there is a likelihood of those pests or diseases affecting the quality or volume of output of the agricultural produce.

Scheme

The Table Grapes Producers' Committee recognises the benefit to all Western Australian table grape producers of quick and effective eradication. As a means of controlling pests and diseases, and for the benefit of the industry as a whole, the Committee authorises the payment and/or reimbursement of costs incurred for treatment of fruit by table grape producers subject to the following conditions:

General eligibility

1. The producer is a current fee-for-service payer. That is, the producer has paid APC Fee-for-service for table grape produce (whether directly, or indirectly through market dealers) within the last twelve months.
2. The treatment is required by the *Qfly Bayswater Quarantine Area Notice and Approved Measures QAN Bayswater Outbreak*.

Cold storage treatment costs

3. The cold storage treatment has been completed and conducted by a non-related party in a manner consistent with measures approved by the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer (see: *Approved Measures QAN Bayswater Outbreak*).
4. The cold room is at more than 40% capacity for the treatment cycle (unless otherwise exempted by the CEO, Agricultural Produce Commission).
5. Maximum reimbursement (ex GST):
 - a. Up to \$6,000.00 per cool room per cold storage treatment cycle for cool room payable either as a reimbursement or by the APC directly to cold storage treatment provider
 - b. Up to \$630 per cool room per cold storage treatment cycle for inspection costs payable by the APC directly to DPIRD; and
 - c. Up to \$1,000 per producer for non-related party transport costs incurred transporting fruit to and from the cold storage treatment facility payable as a reimbursement subject to a valid reimbursement claim.

Fumigation costs

6. The fruit has been treated by fumigation with methyl bromide in a manner in consistent with measures approved by the Department's Chief Plant Biosecurity Officer (see: *Approved Measures QAN Bayswater Outbreak*).

7. Maximum reimbursement for non-related party expenses is \$5,000.00 per producer subject to an approved reimbursement claim.

The scheme will expire on 30 June 2023 unless extended by the Table Grape Producers' Committee. Total scheme expenditure is limited to \$100,000.00.

Claim Process

Cold treatment costs:

Cold treatment cool room costs may be paid directly by the APC subject to a funding agreement.

Inspection costs:

Inspection costs for inspection as part of the cold treatment may be paid directly by the APC subject to a funding agreement.

Producer reimbursements:

- On or before **19 May 2023**, table grape producers must submit a completed claim form, attaching evidence of out-of-pocket costs incurred. The form will be available from www.apcwa.org.au.
- By **31 May 2023**, the Producer's Committee will review and approve eligible reimbursements.
- Approved reimbursements will be paid by **30 June 2023**.

Governance and Oversight

The APC Table Grape Producers Committee is responsible for authorising both the scheme and associated reimbursement claims.

Administration of the scheme will be undertaken by the APC on behalf of the Table Grape Producers Committee. As part of the administration, the APC might seek independent confirmation of treatment undertaken (including confirmation by service providers or DPIRD) to support reimbursement claims as part of its financial assurance activities.

Final reporting on the scheme for the 2022/23 financial year will be included in the APC Annual Report.