



## Minister Announces the Continuation of the Murray Valley Citrus Board

The Board is delighted with the Victorian Minister for Agriculture, Peter Walsh's recent decision to continue with the MVCB for a further four year term commencing on 1 July 2012.

58 percent of those voting indicated their support for the Board to continue providing its services to the regions citrus producers. MVCB is still awaiting the announcement of the appointment of the new Board members.

The Board funds programs and services including Queensland Fruit Fly (Qfly) awareness and eradication, market access programs and on farm field trials.

Chairman Jan Denham was very pleased with the result stating the programs and services delivered by the Board to Murray Valley citrus growers are valued by the majority of growers and they appreciate the work done on the ground and behind the scenes by the Board's staff.

The results of the poll are available on the Victorian Electoral Commission website  
<http://www.vec.vic.gov.au/results/MurrayValleyCitrusGrowersIndustryDevelopmentPoll2012.html>

## Qfly Detections for Week Ending 15 June 2012

No Qfly has been trapped in Sunraysia over the last week. This is very pleasing considering the large number of Qfly still being trapped in the Goulburn Valley. The difference in numbers is directly related to the bait spray eradication efforts funded by the Board and undertaken by citrus growers in the Sunraysia district. Goulburn Valley has only had suppression blocks placed by Victoria DPI.

## Certifying Fruit Fly Area Freedom in the Sunraysia

Exporters must provide the following evidence when requesting an inspection for produce from Sunraysia under area freedom.

1. Where the product has been grown, and that no part of the block/s lie within a suspension area
2. Where the product was packed, and that the pack house does not lie within a suspension area
3. Date the produce was picked
4. Date the produce was packed

Evidence of property and pack house freedom (1 & 2 above) must be obtained from the relevant State Departments of Agriculture. To determine if your product has been grown and packed outside a suspension area:

VIC growers email [Richard.mapson@dpi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Richard.mapson@dpi.vic.gov.au)  
NSW growers email [bev.zurbo@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:bev.zurbo@industry.nsw.gov.au)

Your email should provide the following information:

- Business name and property/facility address
- A statement that you wish to determine if any part of your property or pack house site lies within a Qfly suspension area.
- If you are in NSW you must provide the Deposited Plan Number (which relates to the lot number and is on your rates notice).

The State Departments will notify your area freedom status via email. Copies of this email along with evidence of dates of picking and packing must be submitted to the DAFF officer before the inspection will commence.

The evidence of area freedom will need to accompany any product moving under a transfer certificate.

Statements of freedom will remain valid and can be provided for subsequent inspections until the status of Sunraysia changes with any new outbreak. Clients will need to request new statements to present to DAFF following every new outbreak.

Once evidence has been provided to the AQIS officer, they will determine if the product is approved for export to specific markets as the reinstatement conditions for some countries differ from domestic requirements.

Please contact the Board's office for any further enquires.

## Wind Breaks for Citrus



*Wind scar on citrus*

Citrus trees require a protected environment in order to produce high yields of top quality fruit to maximize returns.

On some properties wind protection can increase:

Grade one fruit in excess

- of 20%
- Yield improvement between 13% to 16%
- Canopy growth by 8% to 12%.

Wind break design is critical to maximize performance. It needs to address factors of height & orientation, permeability, machinery access, suitable type or species, nutrition, weed control and frost issues.

CITTgroups Australia co-ordinators have produced a comprehensive fact sheet on wind breaks which is available on the MVCB website [www.mvcitrus.org.au](http://www.mvcitrus.org.au)