



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Department of Primary Industries

Thursday, January 15, 2009

WONTHAGGI FRUIT FLY INFESTATION ERADICATED

The Department of Primary Industries (DPI) announced today that the Queensland fruit fly infestation in the Wonthaggi area had been eradicated.

DPI Plant Standards Officer Wendy Coombes said that the suspension area around the infestation had been reinstated to the status of being free of fruit fly.

“The eradication of this outbreak significantly reduces the risk of fruit fly spreading into horticultural production areas,” Ms Coombes said.

The outbreak at Wonthaggi was declared in February 2008.

Ms Coombes explained that reinstatement of a suspension area can occur when no fruit flies had been trapped within the area for a prescribed period.

“The period depends on the time of year when the last fly was caught and how this relates to fruit fly development,” she said.

Ms Coombes thanked residents of the reinstated area for their assistance.

“The cooperation of residents makes all the difference to the success of our eradication programs and helps to achieve reinstatement as soon as possible,” she said.

“We encourage residents to minimise the risk of further fruit fly infestations by looking after their fruit trees and removing any ripe fruit before it falls to the ground.”

Enquiries regarding fruit fly should be directed to the DPI Customer Service Centre on 136 186.