

Situation Update

North East Australian Plague Locusts

The information contained in this update was correct when it was prepared
at 12 pm 30 November 2008

Situation as at 12 pm Sunday 30 November 2008

A total of 549 sites have been confirmed as having Australian Plague Locusts.

Locusts in southern New South Wales and northern Victoria have started fly and may begin laying another generation of eggs that could begin hatching in mid-December. This is a very visible phase of their lifecycle and may be the first time many northern Victorians will have seen locusts this spring.

APL are a natural phenomenon and cannot ever be completely eradicated - despite the best combined efforts of DPI, landholders and the community to control the outbreak.

DPI encourages vigilance to look out for egg laying locusts to determine where any new infestations may start and report to the Locust Hotline on 1300 13 5559.

Landholders from all areas of Victoria are encouraged to take suspected locust samples to their local DPI centre. Staff there will arrange forwarding of the sample to the Locust ICC for identification by an entomologist.

Last 24 hours

Samples are currently undergoing laboratory analysis for identification.

Incident Control Centre field crews are revisiting sites with previously confirmed APL sightings to monitor development and evaluate the effectiveness of local government control measures on roadsides.

Warmer weather patterns in Southern New South Wales (NSW) over the next couple of days may result in increased locust activity and migration across the NSW/ Victorian border. Field crews are also monitoring sites along the border for possible migration activity.

Residents within the primary target zone are encouraged to be on the lookout for swarms and egg laying by immigrating and resident locusts, and to report these to the locust control line on 1300 13 5559.

Safety Messages

Motorists, please note that field teams will be working on roadsides in Northern Victoria.

Flying locusts may constitute a driving hazard for motorists.

A motor safety fact sheet is available on the DPI website at www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

To report sightings of Locusts, contact the Locust Hotline on **1300 13 5559**.

More information is available on the DPI website: www.dpi.vic.gov.au.

Media Enquiries: 5824 5563.

This information is provided by the Department of Primary Industries. Controlling Australian Plague Locusts is a partnership between the Australian Plague Locust Commission (with all State and Commonwealth representatives), the Victorian Government, public and private landholders and the Victorian community.