



## Otara Facialis Fruit Fly 2019 – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

As at 19 February 2019

### General information about *Bactrocera facialis* fruit fly –the Facialis Fruit Fly

#### What is a facialis fruit fly?

Facialis fruit flies can harm home gardens and horticultural crops, in particular capsicum and chillies. The pest is difficult to catch at the border because it can arrive as eggs or tiny larvae concealed inside fruit.

This fly is a different species to the Queensland fruit fly and the detection is not related to the current Devonport situation.

#### What does the facialis fruit fly look like?

It is slightly smaller than a housefly with a black thorax (the part below the head), yellow areas near the wings, and on the triangular area at the end of the thorax. The abdomen or lower body is orange-brown except for some black markings in the middle and towards the sides. The wings are mostly clear, except for dark veins on the front of the wings.



#### What should someone do if they suspect they've seen Facialis Fruit Fly?

If you find larvae (look like grains of rice) in fruit, or believe you have seen a fruit fly, call 0800 80 99 66.



## Facialis Fruit Fly response in Otara 2019

### How was the Facialis Fruit Fly first detected?

The solitary male fly was formally identified following a find in a residential trap on 18 February 2019. No further facialis fruit flies have been found. This species of fruit fly has never been found in New Zealand before. At this stage there is no indication there is an incursion of facialis here.

### What crops are affected by the Facialis Fruit Fly?

Facialis is native to Tonga where it badly affects crops of capsicum and chilli but appears to be less harmful to other fruit and vegetables.

Fruit and vegetables that are not as susceptible include: avocado, breadfruit, oranges, mandarins and other citrus fruit, papaya, passionfruit, guava, mango and tomatoes.

Leafy green and root vegetables, including taro, are not affected by the Facialis fruit fly.

A full list of fruit and vegetables that the fly feeds will be available on [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly).

### How long could the Facialis Fruit Fly survive in New Zealand?

It is a tropical fruit fly species so New Zealand's climate does not provide ideal year round conditions but it may survive over the summer months in Northern New Zealand.

### What is Biosecurity New Zealand doing to manage this find?

Biosecurity New Zealand (a business unit of MPI) has declared a Controlled Area around the location where the facialis fly was trapped. Residents in the Otara area can find full information about what they need to do at: [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly)

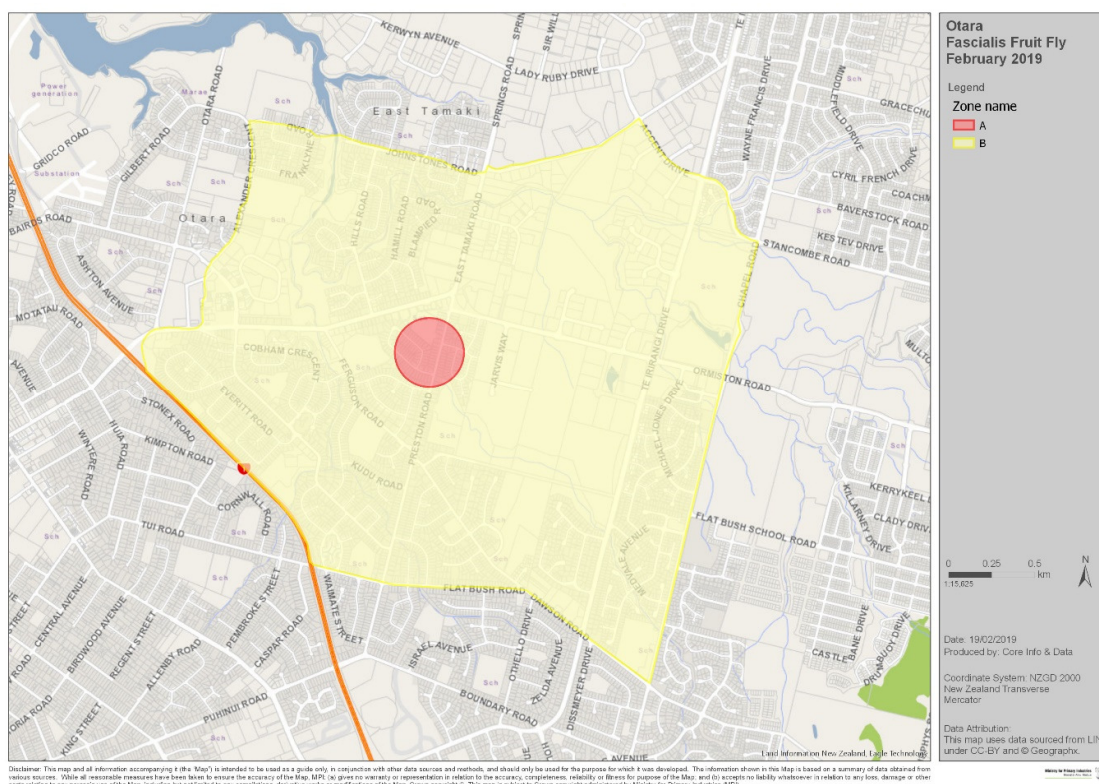
The restrictions are the same as with the Devonport Queensland fruit fly - whole fresh fruit and vegetables (except for leafy vegetables and root vegetables) cannot be moved outside of the A Zone of the Controlled Area. This is the area that extends 200m out from where the fly was found. Home-grown vegetables cannot be moved out of a B Zone that goes out 1.5km from the find.

Detailed maps of the controlled area and a full description of the boundaries, and full information about the rules will be available [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly)

Field crews are out today placing road signs and distributing other information materials to the public.



## What are the restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables in the Controlled Area?



The controlled area is made up of Zone A which is the highest risk area closest to where the fly was found. Zone B presents a smaller risk.

In short, the restrictions on moving fruit and vegetables are:

- **Zone A** – NO whole fruit or vegetables (except leafy and root vegetables like lettuce, cabbage, bok choy, rhubarb, broccoli, brussels sprouts, carrots, parsnips, potatoes, kumara, celery, onions, spring onions) can be taken out of Zone A.
- NO fruit or vegetable waste or garden waste can be taken out of Zone A.
- NO fruit or vegetables waste (ie fruit skins and cores/stones, peelings etc) or garden waste (i.e. prunings from fruit trees or vegetable garden cuttings) can be taken out of Zone A.
- Fruit or vegetables, including waste should either be disposed of in a home in-sink disposal unit or put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.
- Garden waste (i.e. fruit tree clippings) should be put into specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins.



- **Zone B** – you must not move **home-grown** fruit and vegetables out of Zone B. In other words produce grown inside Zone B cannot be moved out of it. If you brought any produce into Zone B from Zone A before the response this must be consumed or disposed of into the specially supplied Biosecurity New Zealand bins. You are free to move commercially-purchased fruit and vegetables (ie fruit and vegetables brought at the supermarket) out of Zone B. Home grown produce waste and garden waste needs to be disposed of in Biosecurity New Zealand bins.

**If in doubt, don't take it out.**

[What can I do with cooked fruit and vegetables if I live in the Controlled Area?](#)

Cooked food is not subject to movement controls.

[What if I want to make lunch to take out of the controlled area?](#)

If you live in the Controlled Area (see map) and you're preparing lunch for work or school, you can still include fruit and vegetables, just make sure it's cut up and you can't see any larvae in it.

[Can I still buy food at Otara market on Saturday?](#)

Yes, you can still buy food at the Otara market on Saturday and take it away with you. It is outside the controlled area. However, you cannot take it into Zone A and out again, this is to make sure any fruit flies don't hitchhike out.

[What if my neighbours gives me fruit and vegetables from their garden?](#)

If you live in the Zone A or Zone B you are welcome to consume fruit and vegetables that have been given to you by neighbours from within those zones.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of the your zone.

The reason for asking you to not take fruit and vegetables out of the controlled area is to reduce the risk of any fruit flies hitchhiking on it.

[What if I want to take fruit and vegetables to church?](#)

If your church is in the Controlled Area (see map) and you're planning on taking fruit and vegetables along, that is fine. But please do not take it back out of the Controlled Area. It should be disposed of in the specially provided Biosecurity New Zealand bins. This is to make sure any fruit flies don't hitchhike out.

**If in doubt, don't take it out.**

[I have a stall at the market, can I still sell fruit and vegetables?](#)

If you have a stall at the market you cannot sell any fruit or vegetables that have been grown in Zone A or Zone B.



### Can I still contribute fruit and vegetables to the community pantries?

If you live in the controlled area (Zone A or Zone B) you can still contribute fruit and vegetables to your community pantries.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of your zone.

To find out if you're in the controlled area – see map on our website – [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly).

**If in doubt, don't take it out.**

### Can I still take fruit and vegetables from the community pantries?

If you live in the controlled area (Zone A or Zone B) you can still take fruit and vegetables from community pantries.

The main thing we don't want you to do is to take those fruit or vegetables out of the zone the community pantry is in – see map on our website – [www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/fruitfly).

However, if you think you've seen a larvae in it (they look like grains of rice), or believe you've seen a fruit fly, call 0800 80 99 66.

**If in doubt, don't take it out.**

### How did the Facialis fruit fly get here?

Biosecurity New Zealand has commenced an investigation into how the fruit flies have entered the country.

Biosecurity New Zealand's border controls are extremely tight and effective and they are backed up by an active surveillance system. With these latest two detections that system has put us in the best possible position to respond quickly and ensure New Zealand remains free of these pests.

Detections of unwanted organisms are evidence of the value of Biosecurity New Zealand's multi-layered biosecurity system.

That said, it is important we continue to learn and evolve our biosecurity system. A review of our cargo pathway was initiated in January and is underway. Biosecurity New Zealand will be commissioning an independent assessment of the air passenger and cruise pathways.

### What happens if more Facialis fruit flies are found?

If further facialis fruit flies are found the response would ramp up with further field staff on the ground setting traps.

### You're dealing with a very broad ethnic reach in Otara, how are you planning on reaching these people?

We are working with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to ensure we are communicating effectively with the community.



Leaflets are being translated into Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Chinese and Hindi and should be available on the ground in the next couple of days.

## Compensation

### What compensation will be provided for affected businesses?

Response staff will be working with local retailers to explain the detail of the movement controls and how they may impact their businesses. Local retailers are eligible to apply for compensation for verifiable losses incurred as a result of the legal directions.

For more information about compensation, phone 0800 88 83 33 or email [compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:compensationcoordinator@mpi.govt.nz).