THE STABLE FLY ACTION GROUP INC (SFAG)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

28 October 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT
Cr R Kestel, Deputy President, Shire of Gingin
M Emmanuel, Stable Fly Officer, Shire of Gingin
P Spackman, CEO, VegetablesWA
R Shepherd, Director, Invasive Species & Environment Biosecurity, DPIRD
T Colotti
C Manson
SFAG Committee B Wilson, C Maude, P Jones, D Kowald, J Ottaway
SFAG Members A Clifton, M Dobra, G & A Borwick, E Hartman, K Lane, D Ottaway

PRESENT via TEAMS
J Grayson, DPIRD

APOLOGIES
Cr L Balcombe, Shire President, Shire of Gingin
D Bennit, WA Horse Council
G Coupar, DPIRD
J Grayson, DPIRD
Hon L Hunter, Member for Central Wheatbelt
Hon S Love, Member for Mid West
P Steven, EHO, Shire of Murray
SFAG Members B & L Leahy, R Hindmarsh, A Vis, A Stroud, G & S Grant

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2025 AGM
Confirmed.

AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORT
Presented by Treasurer. Confirmed.

CHAIRMANS REPORT
Presented by Chairman Bob Wilson, attached.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS
Conducted by Shire of Gingin Vice President, Cr R Kestel.
Chairman – Bob Wilson nominated by D Kowald, 2nd by D Ottaway. Bob accepted, on the condition he would retire from the position on 30 June 2027. He then resumed the Chair.
All other Committee members re-elected unopposed.
Chairman called for further nominations. No further nominations were received.

GENERAL BUSINESS
Nil

GUEST SPEAKERS
Peter Spackman, CEO VegetablesWA spoke on –

- VWA's role in providing support to the vegetable industry
- Oversees approximately 800 commercial growers in WA
- Promotion of the stable fly problem within the vegetable industry
- Had applied for funding from DPIRD and MLA for a field officer to assist in stable fly surveillance and solutions but had been unsuccessful
- Were conducting field days in the Shire of Gingin
- encouraging best practice in the horticultural industry and compliance with the SFMP2019

Mick Emmanuel, Shire of GG stable fly officer, spoke on –

- Problems continuing in irrigated horticulture operations in the Shire
- His hands are tied due to the ineffectiveness of the SFMP
- Disappointment in lack of support from the affected community, which should be taking more serious action to bring the stable fly problem to the attention of the public
- Lack of support, in the way of resources, from DPIRD for the Shire's Stable Fly Business Plan
- Working with manager of celery crop under centre-pivot irrigation at Tana's property on Waterville Road. Controlling stable fly but needs chemicals for success.

Ron Shepherd, Director Invasive Species & Environment Biosecurity, DPIRD, took questions from the floor.
Topics raised included –

- Impracticalities of the amended SFMP2019
- Ineffectiveness of the SFMP in regards to prosecutions
- Liaising with Coles and Woolworths re excessive vegetable crop waste caused by marketing strategies and consumer demands
- Lack of support for the Shire of Gingin

- Circumventing state government, ie DPIRD, altogether, and raising funds from the affected community to support the Shire of Gingin's Business Plan to employ an agronomist

CLOSE

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm and attendees adjourned for supper and informal discussions.