

19 November 2024

**The Hon. David Crisafulli MP**  
Queensland Premier  
PO Box 15185  
CITY EAST, QUEENSLAND, 4002

**Subject: Support for Turf Queensland and the Call for a Comprehensive Review of National Red Imported Fire Ant Treatment Protocols**

Dear Premier Crisafulli,

On behalf of Turf Australia and the broader turf industry, I write to express our strong support for Turf Queensland and its members in addressing the critical biosecurity challenges posed by Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA). These challenges, particularly the market access issues experienced by Queensland growers, require urgent attention and decisive action to protect both the industry and the broader agricultural community.

Queensland's turf growers, who play a vital role in Australia's green infrastructure, are among the most compliant sectors when it comes to biosecurity. They diligently follow every regulation set forth by the National Red Imported Fire Ant Eradication Program. However, despite their best efforts, growers are increasingly facing unacceptable barriers to market access. These barriers arise from the growing infestations surrounding their properties, which are beyond their control and require intervention at a systemic level.

We support Turf Queensland's messaging that emphasises the urgent need for:

1. **A Comprehensive Review of Bifenthrin Efficacy:** Given the persistent infestations despite chemical treatments, a full evaluation of Bifenthrin's effectiveness is critical. This review should consider alternative treatment methods or improved application strategies to enhance outcomes.
2. **Resumption of Helicopter Treatment Programs:** A blitz-style helicopter treatment program is essential to address the widespread and severe RIFA infestations encroaching on growers' properties. Such actions will not only curb infestations but also provide immediate relief to growers and their surrounding communities.


RIFA pose a significant threat to agricultural productivity, community safety, and Australia's biosecurity. If Queensland's growers, despite adhering to all biosecurity measures, continue to face market access restrictions due to systemic failures, the long-term viability of the turf industry is at risk.

We urge the Queensland Government to prioritise these measures, providing the necessary resources and leadership to effectively manage this escalating issue. Supporting our growers is critical to protecting Australia's agricultural reputation and ensuring sustainable trade and market opportunities.

Turf Australia stands ready to collaborate with your department and Turf Queensland to address these challenges and secure the future of this vital industry.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



**Eva Ricci**  
Executive Officer, Turf Australia