

29 October 2018

Risk Analysis Efficiencies and Stakeholder Engagement
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

Draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh decrowned pineapples from Taiwan

Growcom, on behalf of the Australian pineapples industry has reviewed the draft report and notes that the importation of fresh decrowned pineapples for human consumption from commercial production areas in Taiwan will be permitted subject to specific quarantine measures.

It is our contention that the risk of mealy bugs entering Australia from Taiwan has not been adequately addressed and we request that further investigation of the efficacy of methyl bromide as a treatment for mealy bugs specifically in decrowned pineapple be considered. The cuplike structures (blossom cups) on the surface of pineapple fruit provide a mechanism for mealy bugs to hide and evade treatment. In light of considerable issues in the cut-flower industry with non-compliance from importing countries, we request additional inspections once the fruit has arrived in Australia to ensure that treatment protocols are adequate.

In addition, the Australian pineapple industry has significant concerns that the free movement of pineapples into Taiwan from countries such as Malaysia where bacterial fruit collapse and heart rot is present, represents a quarantine risk to Australia. We would like strict assurances and monitoring that that fresh decrowned pineapples imported into Australia from Taiwan, are exclusively from commercial production areas in Taiwan (as stated in the draft report); and do not provide a pathway into Australia for pests from other countries.

In light of the uncertainty in relation to the treatment of mealy-bugs, we contend that the risk of importation of pineapples into Australia from Taiwan does not meet the Adequate Level of Protection. We would be grateful for any further information in relation to the efficacy of methyl bromide on decrowned pineapples.

Despite our concern in relation to these two issues, Growcom would like to thank the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources for their consultative approach to this import risk analysis and for keeping industry well informed of the approach and progress. In particular we appreciated the presence of the Department at the pineapple field day and the opportunity for growers to engage with the scientific and policy team.

Yours faithfully



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