



Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 30128/18

31 OCT 2018

Dr Marion Healy
First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Plant Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Marion
Dear Dr Healy

Thank you for your letter of 29 August 2018 regarding the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' (DAWR) request for submissions on the 'Draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh decrowned pineapples from Taiwan' (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) 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. My Department notes that DAWR has existing import policies for fresh decrowned pineapples from the Philippines, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Solomon Islands and Malaysia; and for other fresh fruits from Taiwan. The risk mitigation measures for the quarantine pests associated with decrowned pineapples from Taiwan are specified in current import policies and consistent with existing practices. These measures include postharvest fruit treatment (such as methyl bromide fumigation) in combination with specific operational requirements.

My Department supports the quarantine measures proposed in the draft report to reduce the biosecurity risk to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP). However, DAF seeks further clarification on the following two issues before DAWR finalises the import conditions for pineapples from Taiwan:

1. there is concern about the efficacy of methyl bromide fumigation treatment against mealybugs due to the cuplike structures (blossom cups) on the surface of pineapple fruit where mealybugs can readily hide and evade the treatment. This concern was raised by Mr Tim Wolens (Managing Director, Agri Supply Global Pty Ltd.) during the stakeholder consultation meeting convened by DAWR and attended by representatives from DAF, Growcom, and the pineapple industry on 11 September

2018 in Brisbane. Based on this information, my Department requests DAWR reviews the efficacy of methyl bromide treatment for mealybugs

2. DAF is seeking clarification on the importation of fresh pineapples from other countries, especially Malaysia, into Taiwan. DAF is concerned about the potential for pests of quarantine concern to Australia, which are not known to be present in Taiwan, to be moved to Australia from other countries through Taiwan. My Department needs to ensure 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. DAF would appreciate involvement in any further review processes leading to the finalisation of this report, and to be kept informed of any potential biosecurity risks that are identified after the protocol is in place.

If you require any further information, please contact Dr Abu-Baker Siddique on telephone 07 3708 8506 or by email at abu-baker.siddique@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Elizabeth Woods
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries