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DRAFT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR THE RELEASE OF STOMPHASTIS SP. NOV. FOR THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF JATROPHA GOSSYPIIFOLIA

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the draft risk analysis report for the proposed release of the leaf-mining moth, *Stomphastis* sp. nov. for the biological control of the weed, bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*).

This draft report proposes that the biological control agent should be released, subject to standard import and release conditions associated with exotic biological control agents.

The draft report is being issued for a 30 calendar day public consultation period, closing on 20 December 2021.

Stakeholders are invited to [have their say](#) on the draft report. The department will consider all stakeholder comments received during the consultation period in preparing a final report.

The draft report proposes that the biological control agent, *Stomphastis* sp. nov., should be released to control the weed, bellyache bush (*Jatropha gossypifolia*). The risk is estimated to be Negligible, which achieves Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The applicant, the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (QDAF), provided a submission in support of their application to release the biological control agent. The submission detailed the results of host-specificity testing, together with other relevant information. This submission is included as an attachment to the draft report.

The standard consultation period for biological control risk analyses is 30 days, which differs from the standard period of 60 calendar days for other risk analyses. This is because the department has consulted extensively with all state and territory governments and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) and there was no opposition to the release of *Stomphastis* sp. nov. as a biological control agent. This approach is consistent with the [Revised guidelines for the introduction of exotic biological control agents for the control of weeds and plant pests](#).

The [draft report](#) and information about the risk analysis process are available online.

The department invites stakeholders interested in receiving information and updates on biosecurity risk analyses to subscribe via the department's online [subscription](#) service. By subscribing to Biosecurity Risk Analysis Plant, you will receive Biosecurity Advices and other notifications relating to plant biosecurity policy, including this risk analysis.

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