



February 2024

## ***Draft report for the fresh passionfruit from Vietnam risk analysis***

# **Supplementary response to stakeholder comments**

Stakeholders commented or raised concern around aspects of fresh passionfruit imports from Vietnam that were outside the scope of the *Passionfruit from Vietnam: biosecurity import requirements draft report*. Accordingly, our responses to these aspects are provided in this supplementary response paper. To review our responses to the comments raised that were in-scope of the risk analysis, please read **Appendix C** of the final report.

### **Issue 1: Concerns were raised that we are creating growth opportunities for international industries at the expense of the Australian passionfruit industry**

We acknowledge that there is a strong supply of domestically grown passionfruit and that imports of agricultural goods can directly compete with Australian agricultural goods. However, under our international obligations, our risk analyses cannot consider the potential economic impact of market competition or the net national benefit resulting from imports.

Australia (as a World Trade Organization (WTO) member) must meet its international obligations by assessing market access requests (import proposals) and developing the least trade restrictive and scientifically justified import conditions where required.

Our trading partners use the same principles when assessing Australia's market access requests.

As a member of the WTO, it is important that Australia continues to be recognised as a country that abides by, and champions, the global trade rules. As a global trading nation Australia benefits from these rules for our own exports but also works within the rules to protect human, animal and plant life or health.

The decision to import goods into Australia is a commercial decision between an importer in Australia and a supplier in the exporting country who can meet the import conditions. If trade occurs, the success ultimately depends on Australian consumers.

### **Issue 2: Concerns were raised regarding Vietnam's compliance with the recommended risk management measures and the effectiveness of their regulatory system, including surveillance of certified planting and packaging facilities.**

Australia accepts imports only when we are confident the risks of pests and diseases can be managed to achieve the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for Australia. Trade will only be allowed if the exporting country can demonstrate it can meet the conditions that Australia imposes to ensure safe trade.

Our officers visited passionfruit production areas and packing houses in Vietnam in November 2022 to observe commercial production, pest management and other export practices of fresh passionfruit. Our observations during the visit, along with other supporting information provided by Vietnam, confirmed that Vietnam has established standard commercial production practices for passionfruit for export.

Before publishing the recommended risk management measures as import conditions in our Biosecurity Import Conditions database (BICON), we will verify that Vietnam can meet the import conditions. This verification process will include development of a government-to-government work plan with Vietnam, which will be signed by both Vietnam and Australia. The work plan will articulate all operational aspects of pre-export production and management, as well as outlining key responsibilities.

If trade commences, all consignments of passionfruit will be inspected by Vietnam's Plant Protection Department prior to export to ensure import conditions are met. Consignments will be inspected again on arrival in Australia. If quarantine pests are found in any consignments of passionfruit from Vietnam, Australia will carry out appropriate remedial action and request Vietnam investigate the source of the pest and apply corrective action. Australia may also review the pathway.

We will review the import policy after a suitable volume of trade has occurred. This may involve additional assurance activities to verify Vietnam's implementation of the import requirements. For example, our officers may undertake an audit by visiting areas in Vietnam that produce passionfruit for export to Australia.

The policy will also be reviewed if there is reason to believe that the plant health status in Vietnam has changed.

## More information

Learn more about [Plant risk analyses](#)

Web [agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/plant/passionfruit-from-vietnam](http://agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/plant/passionfruit-from-vietnam)

Email [plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au](mailto:plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au)

### Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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