

The Balthan Group

FIJI GINGER EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION

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Email ; gst@connect.com.fj

June 15, 2012

Mr Bill Magee

General Manager

Plant Biosecurity (Grains & Forestry)

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

G.P.O. Box 858

CANBERRA ACT 2601

AUSTRALIA

Dear Sir,

On behalf of our Association, I take this opportunity to voice our overwhelming support for the Fiji Draft Ginger IRA conditions. This process has taken almost 7 years to reach this point, and we are very excited, delighted, and keen anticipation, looking forward to the final outcome, that of permission for our industry to export fresh ginger to Australia. Due to the Pristine environment, in which we grow our ginger here, unlike most other producing countries our product is Chemical Free, in that we do not need to use any Pesticides or Insecticides in the growing cycle, thus likened to organic product, but at a more realistic retail price..

Our product is particularly well liked in the International consuming community, due to it's lemon like, strong ginger flavour, a characteristic, that we are confident the Australian consumer, once available in Australia, will love the Fiji ginger !

Fiji was previously a major supplier to the US, Middle East, UK and the EU markets, all of which valued our quality and unique flavor, which only stopped, due to the arrival of cheaper product from China, whom we were unable to compete with.

The opening of the market, will provide additional income for our rural producers, assist minimize rural/urban drift and provide further income for all other stakeholders in the value chain, assisting in a small way to also enhance Fiji's foreign exchange reserves.

We are very appreciative of Australian Bio Security, engaging in this process on behalf of The Fiji Ginger Industry, and believe once approved, will provide our farmers, with the added incentive, to broaden their base of productive activities.

Please acknowledge receipt of this email.

Sincerely,


Graeme S. Thorpe
Chairman