

13<sup>th</sup> June 2012

Biosecurity Plant

Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

GPO Box 858, **Canberra ACT 2601**

**RE: Response to: 'Draft import risk analysis report for fresh ginger from Fiji'**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Australian Ginger Industry Association (AGIA), in their response to the 'Draft import risk analysis report for fresh ginger from Fiji', hereafter referred to as the IRA, has highlighted concerns for the Australian Pineapple Industry if this draft IRA is endorsed without alteration.

There is one main biosecurity concerns for the Pineapple Industry from importation of ginger from Fiji; the potential introduction of the nematode species *Rotylenchulus reniformis*.

*R. reniformis* (reniform nematode), although already recorded in Australia, is a concern to the Pineapple Industry. The largest growing region of both pineapple and ginger in Australia is south-east Queensland, an area where this nematode species is not known to occur (AGIA IRA Response June 2012). As such, introduction into this area would significantly affect production of both commodities. The Pineapple Industry agrees with the pest risk assessment for this organism provided by the AGIA in their IRA response. The nematode species was given a moderate-high probability rating for entry, establishment and spread, a moderate rating for potential consequences and an overall unrestricted risk estimate of moderate.

An unrestricted risk estimate of moderate exceeds Australia's ALOP. Therefore, specific risk management measures are required to mitigate the risk of introduction of *R. reniformis*. The Australian Pineapple Industry agrees with the ratings provided by the AGIA in their IRA response and shares their concerns in relation to potential introduction of this pests

The Australian Pineapple Industry appreciates your consideration of its concerns on the potential introduction of this pest species from Fiji in imported fresh ginger.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or require assistance from the Australian Pineapple Industry in further evaluating this IRA please email ([cgambley@growcom.com.au](mailto:cgambley@growcom.com.au)) or phone (mobile: 0400 704 908 or office 3620 3844).

Yours sincerely,

Cherie



Cherie Gambley

Pineapple Industry Development Officer

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