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Department of
**Employment, Economic
Development and Innovation**

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Mr Bill Magee
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Received
24/8/2011

Kate Smithy

For your
assessment and
inclusion in draft

Thanks - Bill - 24/8.

Dear Mr Magee

Import risk analysis for the importation of fresh ginger from Fiji

Thank you for your letter of 24 June 2011 concerning the *Draft pest categorisation table for the import risk analysis of fresh ginger from Fiji* and your request for comments.

The draft pest categorisation tables propose the list of quarantine pests associated with fresh ginger from Fiji along with the pests that require risk assessments during the importation.


The Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) notes that Biosecurity Australia (BA) has identified eight pests of quarantine concern associated with fresh ginger from Fiji and proposed risk assessment. DEEDI acknowledges the identified pest list (table 2) as well as the list of pests (table 1) for risk assessments during the importation.

DEEDI has reviewed the draft pest categorisation tables and noticed there may be a number of pests that were not considered as risks by BA. Attached are DEEDI's pests of concern along with comments on individual pests.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft table. DEEDI will appreciate receiving a response on how the issues raised are to be addressed in any further review leading to the preparation of an import risk analysis document.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Abu-Baker Siddique on telephone 07 3225 1678 or siddique.abu-baker@deedi.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Robert Setter

Associate Director-General
Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation

Att



**Department of Employment, Economic Development and
Innovation's response to the
Draft pest categorisation table for the import risk analysis of fresh
ginger from Fiji
Biosecurity Australia Advice (ref. 2010/03007)**

1. *Pythium myriotylum*

P. myriotylum is present in Australia but this species/isolate may be different than the Fijian species/isolate. The Fijian isolates grew at different rates on agar and showed variability in cultural characteristics (ref. Stirling et al. in Australasian Plant Pathology, 2009, 38, 453-460). The authors also believe that the Fijian species is more virulent and damaging to ginger than the Australian species. Therefore, the Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation (DEEDI) strongly suggests risk assessments are undertaken for this serious pest of ginger during importation.

2. *Radopholus similis*

R. similis is one of the world's top 10 listed damaging plant-parasitic nematodes. DEEDI is agreed with Biosecurity Australia (BA) that *R. similis* is present in Australia. However, there is a genetic diversity among this species and in Australia the pest has been reported on banana plant and plantation land only (Stirling & Pattison in Australasian Plant Pathology, 2008, 37, 254-267). Therefore, Fijian species of this nematode on ginger most likely would be different than the Australian species. DEEDI emphasises the need of proper risk assessments for this pest during the importations.

3. *Aspidiella sacchari* (Rhizome scale)

DEEDI's views differed with the BA statements on this pest in the Pest categorisation "... but not considered likely to be on the rhizome. Ginger is not listed as a major host (Ben-Dov et al. 2011)". The rhizome infestation by this pest is reported in both field and storage conditions (Devasahayam and Abdulla Koya, 2005) and a photo of infested rhizome can be viewed in the report (figure 5, page 9) prepared by the Australian Ginger Industry in 2010 (Author Hutchings B, the same reference also cited in the BA document). In addition to ginger, the pest was also recorded on sweet potato, taro, turmeric, yam and tannia (Devasahayam and Abdulla Koya, 2005). There is no record of this pest in Queensland (Dr. Mike Smith DEEDI). Based on the information, DEEDI believes that

risk assessment for *Aspidiella sacchari* is required during the importation.

4. *Adoretus versutus* (rose beetle)

DEEDI's views differed with the statement in the Pest categorisation '... but unlikely to be present in rhizomes'. Based on this, BA considers it unnecessary to carry out risk assessments for this pest. In the literature, rhizomes are known as one kind of storage roots. Therefore, DEEDI believes that *Adoretus versutus* is capable of infecting ginger rhizomes entering into Australia unless there is a proper risk assessment for this pest during the importation.

5. *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *zingiberi* (*Fusarium* Yellow)

DEEDI concurs with BA about the presence of this pest in Australia. However, great genetic diversity among the species (Pappalardo et al, 2009) reveal there is a possibility of more pathogenic isolates existing in Fiji that would have devastating impacts on the Australian ginger industry following its entry and establishment in Australia. To avoid this risk, DEEDI advises to carry out the proper risk analysis for this pest during the importation.