

## Draft pest risk analysis report for *Drosophila suzukii*

### Questions and Answers – 21 October 2010

#### **Pest risk analysis (PRA)**

##### **Why is this PRA being undertaken?**

Australia is responding to the incursion of a new pest, *Drosophila suzukii* (spotted wing drosophila), in North America where it is attacking a range of fresh fruits.

Australia imports several host fruit from the USA – cherries, strawberries and table grapes, that could allow this pest to enter and establish in Australia.

Biosecurity Services Group announced the commencement of a PRA on 31 March 2010.

##### **What is Australia doing about *Drosophila suzukii* while the PRA is not finalised?**

In response to the risks associated with the import of host fruits that *Drosophila suzukii* can attack, Australia introduced emergency quarantine measures on cherries, stone fruit, strawberries and table grapes. Emergency measures were applied before trade in host commodities re-commenced in the 2010 season. These measures apply to current imports and those that are imminent because of an Import Risk Assessment or policy review.

##### **Why didn't Australia ban imports until the PRA was completed?**

Under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, Australia is obliged to consider emergency measures that manage the risk of the pest entering and establishing in Australia and are least trade restrictive.

##### **What are emergency measures?**

Emergency measures are immediate actions taken in response to a new or unexpected quarantine risk.

Once emergency measures are applied, under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement, Australia has an obligation to conduct a PRA to assess the long-term risk and ensure that continuing the measures is technically justified.

##### **What are the emergency measures and why are they considered effective?**

Strawberries and cherries from the USA already have methyl bromide fumigation as a treatment to manage quarantine pests – methyl bromide fumigation is internationally recognised as effective in killing insects.

Before Australia accepted this treatment as effective against *Drosophila suzukii*, we required information from the USA confirming its efficacy. Australia received efficacy information for all fruits, showing 100% mortality of thousands of *Drosophila suzukii*, before trade re-commenced.

Since the information provided was still considered preliminary, Australia required an additional inspection to verify the treatment was effective. The USA authorities perform a 600 unit fruit inspection, where fruit is either cut to detect internal life stages (strawberry) or inspected under optical magnification (x20; cherries & table grapes) to identify infested fruit. The detection of live *Drosophila suzukii* results in the rejection of the treatment lot.

To verify the emergency measures have been completed, AQIS perform another 600 unit inspection. Thousands of inspections have been conducted and no *Drosophila suzukii* have been detected.

##### **What is a PRA and how does it work?**

A pest risk analysis (PRA) is a process that identifies and assesses risks posed by the pests and diseases relevant to imports. If those risks exceed Australia's appropriate level of protection, the PRA specifies what measures should be taken to reduce those risks to an acceptable level. The PRA follows the same key steps as an Import Risk Analysis (IRA) as described in the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2007 (update 2009)*, available on the Biosecurity Services Group website.

Like an IRA, this PRA is being released as a draft report for a 60-day stakeholder comment period, considering and incorporating relevant comments into a final PRA report.

### **What is the progress of the *Drosophila suzukii* PRA?**

The Biosecurity Services Group has completed a draft PRA for *Drosophila suzukii*. The PRA covers the possible commercial commodity pathways this pest is known to attack, the risks associated with the proposed importation host commodities and the management of those risks.

The PRA formally commenced on 31 March 2010, and will be completed to the standard of an IRA.

A draft PRA report was released on 21 October 2010 for a 60-day stakeholder comment period. The PRA report will be used to confirm or modify emergency measures

The PRA identifies a range of pathways requiring quarantine measures. The recommended measures are a combination of risk management measures and operational systems that will reduce the risk associated with the importation of commodities (that *Drosophila suzukii* can attack) into Australia to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection.

### **Has this PRA been fast-tracked?**

No, the normal process has been followed after emergency measures have been applied in accordance with Australia's international obligations.

### **What pathways have been identified in the draft PRA report?**

The draft PRA report identified two pathways, fresh fruit and fresh flowers, which present a risk above Australia's acceptable level of protection. Hosts identified include;

- Fresh fruit: caneberries, stone fruit, strawberry, blueberry, grapes, mulberries, hardy kiwis, silverberries, dogwood, Surinam cherry, red bayberry, orange jessamine, American pokeweed
- Fresh flowers: camellia and Japanese snowbell

Undamaged and commercially ripe apple and pears are not hosts for *Drosophila suzukii*. Original pest alerts from the USA reporting apple and pears as hosts were incorrect. Apple

and pears were listed as hosts based on the English translation of the Japanese summary of original research. The full text translation shows *Drosophila suzukii* can only attack damaged or cut apples and pears. This information has been supplied to Australian pome fruit industry representatives.

### **What quarantine measures have been recommended for *Drosophila suzukii*?**

The recommended quarantine measures are a combination of risk management measures and operational systems that will reduce the risk associated with the importation of host commodities into Australia to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP), specifically:

- area freedom; or
- a systems approach; or
- application of a treatment effective against all life stages of *Drosophila suzukii* (e.g methyl bromide fumigation); and
- a supporting operational system to maintain and verify the phytosanitary status of consignments. Biosecurity Services Group (BSG) will verify that the proposed phytosanitary measures have occurred.

### **Will Australia be adequately protected from *Drosophila suzukii*?**

A comprehensive risk assessment of pathways has been undertaken and, where appropriate, risk management options have been recommended to address risks associated with commodities that could allow *Drosophila suzukii* to enter and establish in Australia. The assessment is based on the latest available scientific information and the measures proposed reflect Australia's overall approach to managing quarantine risks.

### **Are there any regional differences for Australian states?**

No. *Drosophila suzukii* is absent from all of Australia. The emergency measures and the recommendations of the draft PRA apply to all of Australia.

**Does Australia allow any imports of host fruit from countries other than the USA?**

Australia currently only imports host fruit from the USA – strawberry, cherries and table grapes.

Australia has recently completed an IRA for stone fruit from the USA on 19 July 2010 and the emergency measures and draft PRA apply to this commodity. No fruit has been imported.

Australia is nearing completion of the IRA for table grapes from China. A provisional final IRA report has been released and the emergency measures and draft PRA apply to this commodity.

**Does this give the go-ahead for the importation of all host commodities?**

No. The release of the draft PRA report, which is open for a 60-day comment period, does not give the go-ahead for importation of all host commodities. Emergency measures for negotiated commodities expire at the end of this export season.

After the conclusion of the comment period, Biosecurity Australia will consider all stakeholder submissions, include relevant comments, and produce a final PRA report. Any permanent quarantine measures proposed will need to be accompanied by a submission that supports their efficacy at managing the risk of *Drosophila suzukii*.

In addition, for commodities that currently do not have access to Australia, an IRA will need to be completed to identify all pests associated with that particular commodity.

**Consultation**

**Has industry been consulted in developing the *Drosophila suzukii* emergency measures and PRA?**

Yes. Biosecurity Australia has held numerous meetings, corresponded via email and telephone and provided written briefings on the status of *Drosophila suzukii*, the development of emergency measures and the PRA.

The draft PRA report has been released for stakeholder comment period of 60 days.

The communication between industry and the Biosecurity Services Group is ongoing.