

WH:LM

~~10 APR 2006~~

31 March 2006

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**Technical and Administrative Services**  
**Plant Biosecurity**  
**Biosecurity Australia**  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Sir or Madam

**Re: Biosecurity Australia (2005) Revised draft import risk analysis report for apples from New Zealand, Part A. Biosecurity Australia, Canberra, Australia**

I write in relation to Biosecurity Australia's "Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand". The importation of apples from New Zealand to Australia may impact upon our local producers in the Goulburn Valley by way of increased domestic competition, however, the greater concern is in relation to the risk associated with bacterial disease.

Biosecurity Australia proposes that the importation of apples to Australia from New Zealand be permitted subject to a number of risk management conditions. The consequences of this decision, and New Zealand producers failing to comply with these conditions, could be disastrous for the Goulburn Valley and other fruit producing areas of Northern Victoria.

The potential entry of fire blight contaminated fruit into Australia will have vast ramifications at the local, state and national level. Fire blight causes trees to dieback and in serious cases the trees lose flowers and therefore cannot produce fruit. The Goulburn Valley region has weather conditions that are considered conducive to the spread of disease.

Even if the potential for a fire blight outbreak is small, it is still a possibility. The potential costs to our region are too high to take the chance. In simple business terms, the costs far outweigh the economic benefits.

However, there does need to be very serious consideration of the risks to the export potential of the region as well as the economic, social and legal implications for our community.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Wayne Harvey", written over a white background.

**WAYNE HARVEY**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**All correspondence to:**

**HEADQUARTERS**  
Cnr Hare & Heygarth Sts  
Echuca

PO BOX 35 ECHUCA 3564  
DX 62508 ECHUCA

Tel: 1300 666 535  
(03) 5481 2200  
Fax: (03) 5481 2290

E-mail:  
shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au

Website:  
www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

**CUSTOMER**  
**SERVICE CENTRES**

**KYABRAM**  
Lake Road

**ROCHESTER**  
43-45 Mackay Street

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Mangan Street

A.B.N. 23 604 881 620