



21 December 2009

Office of the Chief Executive  
Biosecurity Australia  
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Dear Officer

### **SUBMISSION TO THE DRAFT IRA FOR US APPLE FRUIT**

I refer to Biosecurity Australia Advice 2009/26 dated 22 October 2009 notifying stakeholders of the release of the draft import risk analysis report for fresh apple fruit from the United States of America Pacific Northwest (US PNW) states for consultation.

Apple scab (*Venturia inaequalis*) has been detected in Western Australia and the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (the Department) is intending to review the current apple importation regulations and policies as resources become available. The option of a protocol to restore Western Australia's apple scab freedom is under discussion with industry.

Unfortunately the Department is not in position to undertake a thorough review into the importation of apple fruit at this stage. However, the Department acknowledges that it is likely that methyl bromide fumigation in conjunction with chlorine dipping could reduce the risk associated with invertebrate pests and Biosecurity Australia's identified pathogens in the US draft IRA to an acceptable level.

To facilitate trade the Department seeks Biosecurity Australia's agreement to only allow the importation of fresh apple fruit from the US PNW states into Western Australia under mandatory methyl bromide fumigation in conjunction with chlorine dipping for apple fruit. This would be an interim measure pending the outcome of the Department's review into the importation of fresh apple fruit into Western Australia.

The Department has not considered the suitability of this proposal for the importation of fresh apple fruit from other sources, and would need to consider its extended application or alternative measures on a case by case basis.

If the option to restore Western Australia's apple scab freedom is adopted then the proposal to accept apple fruit from the US PNW states under mandatory methyl bromide fumigation in conjunction with chlorine dipping may need to be reviewed.

I see this proposal as a way forward and I look forward to Biosecurity Australia's response.

Yours sincerely

Eric Wright  
A/ DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND BIOSECURITY

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