



Australian Government

Biosecurity Australia

Mr Joel S. Rudinas
OIC Director
Bureau of Plant Industry
Department of Agriculture
692 San Andres Street
Malate Manila
PHILIPPINES

Dear Mr Rudinas

As you would be aware Biosecurity Australia released the revised draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) report for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines for stakeholder comments on 1 February 2007. I note that the Philippines Bureau of Plant Industry provided a stakeholder comment on 30 April 2007.

Biosecurity Australia, with the assistance of a specialist IRA team, has begun preparing a final IRA report considering all stakeholder submissions on the revised draft IRA report. All stakeholder submissions have been posted on the Biosecurity Australia web page. As I have previously advised you all previous stakeholder comments were considered by Biosecurity Australia and the specialist IRA team in preparing the revised draft IRA report that was released for stakeholder comment on 1 February 2007.

During the process of considering stakeholder comments on the revised draft IRA report the specialist IRA team raised a number of questions concerning the Bureau of Plant Industry submission most notably that the submission contained no comment from the Bureau of Plant Industry on the minority view section (Section 6, Part A of the revised draft IRA report, attached). From examining the stakeholder comments the Bureau of Plant Industry will note that a number of other stakeholders have provided specific, detailed, comment on the minority view section of the revised draft IRA report.

Biosecurity Australia undertook to seek additional comment from the Bureau of Plant Industry specifically regarding the content of the minority view section and the ability of the Philippines to meet the proposed risk management measures. Any additional comment the Bureau of Plant Industry provides will be forwarded to the IRA team for consideration in the preparation of the final IRA report.

As part of the process of developing the final report an independent body, the Eminent Scientists Group (ESG), will ensure that all technical comment provided by stakeholders on the 2007 revised draft IRA report have been properly considered.

Yours sincerely

Louise van Meurs
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia

2 November 2007

Edmund Barton Building Barton ACT GPO Box 858 Canberra ACT 2601 Tel +61 2 6272 3933 www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY