

9 June 2004

Ms Mary Harwood
Executive Manager, Biosecurity Australia
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
PO Box 858, Canberra, 2601

Dear Ms Harwood

**ADDENDUM TO THE REVISED DRAFT IRA REPORT FOR
PHILIPPINES BANANAS**

As the undersigned members of the IRA Team advising Biosecurity Australia on the Import Risk Analysis for the Importation of Fresh Bananas from the Philippines, we tender the enclosed document to you - an Addendum to the revised Draft IRA Report published by Biosecurity Australia on 19 February 2004 (Annex 1).

This Addendum reports on the spreadsheet error and the implications of correcting that error for the import risk analysis.

The scientific information, technical arguments and the resulting risk management recommendations presented in the contents of the revised Draft IRA Report as amended by the attached Addendum, are endorsed fully by the six of us. One member of the IRA Team, Mr David Peasley, holds a different view on some matters. The documents containing his minority views are provided in Annexes 2 and 3.

As noted in our February 2004 report, restricted distribution of imported banana fruit is not the preferred option for managing risks associated with the identified quarantine pests and would be operationally difficult to implement. The reasons for this are outlined in the report. However, with the exception of Mr Peasley, the IRA Team members consider that the risk management measures presented in the revised Draft IRA Report as amended by the Addendum would address the quarantine risks identified in the IRA provided that a rigorous through chain systems approach to implementing the measures at all key points in the importation pathway is applied.

As a team working together on this IRA, we have discussed at length Mr Peasley's views with him over an extended period of time. The entire IRA Team agreed to the release of the revised Draft IRA Report of February 2004, without inclusion of minority or majority views, for the purpose of seeking stakeholder scientific and technical comment on the analysis presented. We consider that the February 2004 report and the attached Addendum present thorough compilations and analyses of

scientific and technical information in which the recommended risk management measures are technically justified.

Yours sincerely

 9/6/04

Dr Cheryl McRae
(Chair)

 9/6/04

Dr Robert Allen

 9/6/04

Dr Bryan Cantrell

 9/6/04

Mr Bob Paton

 9/6/04

Mr Mike Robbins

 9/6/04

Dr Sharan Singh

Annexes:

1. Addendum to the revised Draft IRA Report for the Importation of Fresh Bananas from the Philippines
2. Minority Report, 30 June 2003
3. Email, 1 December 2003