



12 October 2022

## **ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION PAPER – COMMENCEMENT OF PEST RISK ANALYSIS FOR CUT FLOWERS AND FOLIAGE IMPORTS - PART 3**

The department initiated the Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) for Cut Flower and Foliage in 2018 to assess pests of biosecurity concern to Australia associated with imported cut flowers and foliage from all countries. The PRA also determined whether the introduction of revised conditions (on 1 March 2018) managed the arthropod biosecurity risks to achieve the appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for Australia.

The PRA is being conducted in three parts, two of which have already been completed, Part 1 in June 2019 and Part 2 in June 2021.

- Part 1 was an assessment of the 3 main groups of arthropod pests intercepted at the border on imported fresh cut flowers and foliage - thrips, aphids and mites
- Part 2 was an assessment of all other arthropod pest groups (such as beetles, flies, bugs (other than aphids), wasps, bees and ants, and moths and butterflies) found on the pathway.

The reports for Parts 1 and 2 are available on our [website](#).

The third and final part of the PRA will be the department's first formal risk analysis of pathogens (bacteria, viruses and fungi) on the cut flower pathway. As with the previous parts of the PRA, Part 3 will be progressed as a review of biosecurity import requirements, consistent with the [Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis Guidelines 2016](#).

### **The cut flowers and foliage import pathway**

The review will assess the biosecurity risk posed by pathogens associated with the import of commercially produced cut flowers and foliage for decorative purposes from all countries.

In this PRA fresh cut flowers and foliage are defined as stems with flowers and foliage, without propagules (for example, bulbils, fruit and seeds).

### **Australian cut flower and foliage imports**

For over 50 years, Australia has permitted the importation of cut flowers and foliage from many countries, provided Australian biosecurity requirements are met. The global cut flower trade has changed, specifically in relation to increased volumes of trade, different flower and foliage species being traded, and the countries from which the flowers and foliage originate.

Australia imported \$95.4 million worth of fresh cut flowers in 2020-21. The main countries cut flowers are imported from are China (\$21.2 million), Malaysia (\$18.8 million), Kenya (\$14.1 million), Ecuador (\$12.4 million) and Colombia (\$9.5 million).



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## **Cut flower industry in Australia**

The total value of cut flower production in Australia was \$277.3 million in 2020-21. Cut flowers are grown in Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland. Australia's main export markets for cut flowers are Japan (\$2.7 million) and the Netherlands (\$1.6 million).

### **Preliminary assessment of cut flower and foliage**

Parts 1 and 2 of the PRA collectively assessed 842 arthropod pests associated with the cut flower pathway. At this time, 514 were found to be quarantine pests for Australia.

Since the introduction of revised import conditions in 2018 and the publication of Parts 1 and 2 of the PRA, we have observed a 70% reduction in the rate of detections of quarantine pests in imported fresh cut flowers and foliage.

A preliminary assessment identified key pathogens from 3 major risk groups associated with cut flower and foliage imports - bacteria, viruses and fungi. A number of these pathogen species are of potential biosecurity concern to Australia and will require further pest risk assessment.

### **Next steps**

We expect to release the draft report for Part 3 of the PRA for public consultation in mid-2023. Following the consultation period, we will consider all stakeholder comments in preparing the final report.

If you would like to know more about this risk analysis or the risk analysis review process, please email [plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au](mailto:plantstakeholders@agriculture.gov.au) or phone +61 2 6272 5094