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DRAFT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR THE RELEASE OF PUCCINIA CNICI-OLERACEI (EX. CONYZA) FOR THE BIOLOGICAL CONTROL OF CONYZA BONARIENSIS

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of the draft risk analysis report for the proposed release of the rust fungus, *Puccinia cnici-oleracei* (ex. *Conyza*) for the biological control of the weed, flaxleaf fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*).

This draft report proposes that the biological control agent should be released, subject to standard import and release conditions associated with exotic biological control agents.

The draft report is being issued for a 30 calendar day public consultation period, closing on 1 May 2021.

Stakeholders are invited to [have their say](#) on the draft report. The department will consider all stakeholder comments received during the consultation period in preparing a final report.

The draft report proposes that the biological control agent, *Puccinia cnici-oleracei* (ex. *Conyza*), should be released to control the weed, flaxleaf fleabane (*Conyza bonariensis*). The risk is estimated to be Negligible, which achieves Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The applicant, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), provided a submission in support of their application to release the biological control agent. The submission detailed the results of host-specificity testing, together with other relevant information. This submission is included as an attachment to the draft report.

The standard consultation period for biological control risk analyses is 30 days, which differs from the standard period of 60 calendar days for other risk analyses. This is because the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment has consulted extensively with all state and territory governments, all of whom support the recommendations in the draft report. This approach is consistent with the [Revised guidelines for the introduction of exotic biological control agents for the control of weeds and plant pests](#).

The [draft report](#) and information about the risk analysis process are available online.

The department invites stakeholders interested in receiving information and updates on biosecurity risk analyses to subscribe via the department's online [subscription](#) service. By subscribing to Biosecurity Risk Analysis Plant, you will receive Biosecurity Advices and other notifications relating to plant biosecurity policy, including this risk analysis.

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