



Bananas from the Philippines update

June 2026

Issue 4

This newsletter is to keep you updated on the assessment of alternative measures for the importation of bananas from the Philippines.

For more information on the assessment, please visit our website: agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines.

You can read previous issues of the newsletter [here](#).



Conducting a Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis

We have decided to conduct the assessment as a Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis (BIRA). A BIRA is conducted under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the Biosecurity Regulation 2016.

On 16 June 2026, we released a notice of intention (NOI) to conduct the BIRA. Publication of the NOI signals the start of the 30-month timeframe to finalise the BIRA, noting the clock may be paused in specific circumstances.

The main steps in the BIRA process for this assessment are:

- issue a notice of intention to conduct the BIRA
- publish an issues paper
- publish a draft report for public consultation, we expect to publish this in early 2027
- consider all comments received and prepare a provisional report
- publish the provisional report. At this stage, stakeholders have the option to request the Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB) to review the process for conducting the analysis
- publish a final BIRA report, signifying the end of the BIRA process.

We may ask the Scientific Advisory Group ([SAG](#)) at any stage in the process to review and provide comments on any aspect of the BIRA.



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We are committed to ongoing communication and consultation with stakeholders throughout the assessment process.

We will share regular updates about the assessment in this newsletter.

If you would like to be removed from our mailing list, or you know someone who would like to be added, please contact us at plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au



Issues paper

We have released an [issues paper](#) that outlines the assessment process. This paper also provides background information on the Philippines' requests, what is being considered during the assessment and how and when we are engaging with stakeholders.

We invite your feedback on the issues paper by 16 July 2026. We invite you to provide comments on any aspects of the issues paper and to contribute scientific information relevant to this assessment.

Please submit your feedback and/or information to plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au

We will consider all relevant comments received when preparing the draft report.

We expect to release a draft report for public consultation in early 2027, noting this timing is subject to change.



Technical visit to the Philippines

From 23 to 27 March 2026, we visited the Philippines to gather information on the Philippines' commercial production, pest management and export practices for Cavendish bananas for export.

We published a report summarising this visit on our [website](#). The report has information on the visit including the scope and purpose, areas visited, key observations and next steps.



Information sessions

We are holding virtual information sessions to discuss the BIRA, issues paper and technical visit report, and answer your questions. You can register for the sessions here:

- [1:00pm to 2:00pm AEST on Wednesday 24 June 2026](#)
- [1:00pm to 2:00pm AEST on Friday 26 June 2026](#)

Both sessions will cover the same content. We will publish a recording of one of the sessions on our [website](#) for anyone who is unable to attend.



Expert Advisory Group

We recognise that specific expert advice may be required for this assessment. So, we are establishing an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) of experts in banana pests and diseases, production practices and pest management systems to provide independent, expert advice on this assessment. We will share more information once we have established this group. We have commenced the process to establish this EAG and we are committed to having members appointed by quarter 3, 2026.

More information

- **Webpage:** agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines
- **Register to receive regular updates:** If you would like to receive regular updates on the bananas from the Philippines assessment, including this newsletter, please contact plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au
- **Register to receive biosecurity advices:** Subscribe to 'Biosecurity Risk Analysis Plant' via our online subscription service to receive Biosecurity Advices and other notifications relating to plant biosecurity policy: <https://subscribe.agriculture.gov.au/subscribe>
- To unsubscribe, please contact plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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