



## Bananas from the Philippines update

3 December 2025

### Issue 2

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](https://agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines). You can also read previous issues of the newsletter [here](#).



### Summary of the Carnarvon WA in-person session

On 19 November 2025, we travelled to Carnarvon, WA to hold an in-person information session on the assessment of alternative measures. Approximately 22 people attended the session.

The session was independently facilitated by Articulous who captured the discussion on paper, including the questions and concerns raised by attendees. These notes are now available on our [webpage](#). More information on the outcomes from this session and the sessions in NSW and Queensland will be available on our website shortly.



### Farm visits to Far North Queensland and Carnarvon WA

In late October and November 2025, the Australian Banana Growers' Council facilitated our visit of several banana farms and packhouses:

- On 28 and 29 October, we visited two farms including their packing sheds in Far North Queensland.
- On 19 November, we visited two farms and a packing shed in Carnarvon, Western Australia.

These visits were a valuable opportunity for our technical experts to hear directly from growers, observe Australian banana production and biosecurity practices, gain an understanding of the differences in the practices used across the different regions, and ask questions. Several of our technical experts who attended these farm visits will also be undertaking the technical visit to the Philippines in early 2026.



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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](mailto:plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au)*



## Independent experts

We intend to engage independent experts to review our assessment of alternative measures for bananas from the Philippines where required and at appropriate stages in the process.

If the decision is made to conduct the assessment as a Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis (BIRA), at any stage in the process we may ask the Scientific Advisory Group to review and provide comments on any aspect of the BIRA. (Please note that no decision has been made, and the decision to conduct a BIRA is a decision for the Director of Biosecurity (the Secretary of the department) or the Minister for Agriculture.)

The department's previous Scientific Advisory Group lapsed in May 2025 and the Australian Government is currently [advertising](#) for new standing members of the Scientific Advisory Group.



## What's next

Early next year we will visit the Philippines to gather information on Philippine commercial production, pest management and export practices for Cavendish bananas.

The next step will be to publish an issues paper that outlines the assessment process in more detail. We expect to publish the issues paper in the first half of 2026. It will provide background information on the Philippines' requests, what will be considered during the assessment and how and when we will engage with stakeholders\*.

\*Please note that timings are estimates only and are subject to change.

## More information

- **Webpage:** [agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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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