

Transcript of the notes taken during the in-person information session at Carnarvon

On Wednesday 19 November 2025, we held an in-person information session at Carnarvon in Western Australia. The session was independently facilitated by Articulous. During the session, Articulous captured the discussion on paper, including the questions and concerns raised by attendees. These notes are provided below.

- Can we ensure confidence that the Philippines follow through with risk mitigations? Competent Authority approval.
- If something goes wrong? Money refunded from pot?
 - EPPRD + Gov (National) + industry will split/share cost, %.
 - Overall solved by proper risk assessment.
- Representation of the growers at parliamentary level?
 - Industry engagement
 - regular meetings
 - draft feedback.
- Practices – effectiveness as a concern (burning risk husks into soil – evidenced to stay for 30+ years)
- How will costs be split between Aus and the Philippines? National costs will be us, the Philippines will pay for everything on their end. If outcome is no, we will not fund continually.
- Industry turnover domestically? Vs number of growers + where?
- Where does the Philippines trade now? Why want Aus?
- Questions:
 - The Philippines visit – organised by both parties.
 - 2008 request was using existing NZ risk assessment – new risk assessment framework will solve insufficiencies.
 - Competition between legislation? Working with industry + state to consolidate all import issues – regulations.
 - How risk level assessed and who decides what level is acceptable? Director of Biosecurity supported by evidence based. Australia does – high level designed to decrease biosecurity risks to low but not zero (impossible).
 - Risk incursion likelihood-based risk assessment? Likelihood of entry, distribution, establishment. Consequences (at each level e.g. state, environment).
- What steps can producers take?
- Concerns:
 - Actual practices in the Philippines.
 - Money gov has spent on engagement for this publicised and made back for the industry.
 - Self-investment in domestic industry.
 - Tariffs on trade.

Notes taken during the in-person information session at Carnarvon, WA

- Process will take how long? 2-3 years
- In milestones: the Philippines visit Feb 2026, issues paper 2026, draft report on findings 2027, final report?
- Question of unreasonability
- Regular updates + reports publicly published.
- Working conditions, environmental concerns incorporated into risk assessment? (the Philippines is different environment)
- Environment is concerned, involvement of government representatives e.g. Modern Slavery and Biosecurity Act.
- Asbestos example – what's the testing regime? Requirement of food tested at border at cost of importer.
- Geo-politics – USA tariffs example
- Trade is essential but we need to consider biosecurity risks
- Pathways of entry
- Do we assess every step of the import process? E.g. soil on shipping containers, hitchhiking into country, many check in points along journey to Aus.