



September 2025

Fact sheet: Assessment of alternative measures

Cavendish bananas from the Philippines

Key points

- We are conducting an assessment of alternative measures for the importation of fresh Cavendish bananas from the Philippines.
- This is in response to the Philippines' formal request for Australia to consider alternative measures to manage the main pathogens of concern identified in the [2008 Philippine bananas import risk analysis](#).
- Our assessment will involve:
 - a comprehensive scientific assessment for the 3 main pathogens of concern (Moko, black Sigatoka and banana freckle) and consideration of risk management measures alternative to those proposed in 2008
 - a review of the 2008 import risk analysis to ensure the assessments of other pests are still appropriate and determine whether any new biosecurity risks have emerged since the risk analysis was finalised
 - consideration of the Philippines' request for access for an additional cultivar 'GCTCV-218' (also known as 'Formosana'), and an additional export province, Davao de Oro in the Davao Region or Region 11, that were not assessed in the 2008 import risk analysis.
- The notification that we are conducting the assessment does not mean that trade will occur or is imminent. There are several steps still required before we can complete the assessment.
- We remain committed to upholding Australia's biosecurity status and protecting domestic industries from pest and disease threats.
- We will only agree to alternative measures if our assessment concludes the measures effectively manage the biosecurity risks associated with importing bananas from the Philippines to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection ([ALOP](#)).
- Our assessment will be a rigorous, technical, science-based process conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and international standards.
- From 17 September 2025, we will hold virtual and in-person information sessions to explain the assessment process, how we will engage you and answer any of your questions. For more information and to register, visit our [Humanitix event page](#).
- We will release an issues paper that outlines the assessment process in more detail. It will also provide background information on the Philippines' requests, what will be considered during the assessment and how and when we will engage with you. We expect to release this in the first half of 2026, noting this timing is subject to change.
- Once we complete the initial assessment, we will release a draft report for public consultation.

Assessment of alternative measures

We completed an import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines in 2008. Following this we made a policy determination that the importation of bananas from the Philippines may be permitted, subject to risk management measures as outlined in the risk analysis. No trade has occurred.

We received a formal request from the Philippines in 2018 to consider alternative measures to manage the main pathogens of concern to Australia identified in the 2008 import risk analysis.

In March 2025, the Philippines requested Australia consider an additional Cavendish cultivar and an additional export province that were not considered in the 2008 assessment. We will consider this request at the same time as the assessment of alternative measures.

Cavendish bananas are the Philippines' top priority for horticultural market access to Australia.

As a member of the World Trade Organization, Australia is obliged to consider formal requests for imports from trading partners. Where possible, we must develop import conditions that achieve Australia's ALOP, are scientifically justified, and do not unreasonably restrict trade.

Where the risk of the imports cannot be reduced to an acceptable level, we will not permit those imports. Our trading partners use the same principles when assessing Australia's market access requests.

Process for the assessment of alternative measures

The main steps in our assessment process are:

- undertake a technical visit to the Philippines to gather information on Philippine commercial production, pest management and export practices for Cavendish bananas
- release an issues paper
- prepare a draft report
- release a draft report for a minimum 60-calendar day public consultation period
- prepare a final report, with consideration of all stakeholder comments received during consultation on the draft report
- release a final report.

Once the assessment is complete and provided the biosecurity risk can be effectively managed to achieve Australia's ALOP, we will verify that the Philippines can meet our import requirements. This includes verifying that all risk management measures are applied effectively and consistently.

Due to the complexity of this assessment, the full process could take several years to complete.

If imports commence, the feasibility of trade ultimately depends on Australian consumers.

Consumers can make informed decisions about what they buy based on quality, price and country of origin specified in labelling laws.

How stakeholders can contribute

We invite stakeholders to contribute scientific information relevant to this assessment at any time by emailing plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au.

Stakeholders will be invited to comment on a draft report. We will issue a Biosecurity Advice to invite comment at that time.

More information

Australia-Philippines trade

The Philippines is an important trading partner for Australia. In 2024, the Philippines was Australia's 10th largest agriculture, fisheries and forestry export market, valued at \$1.9 billion.

Philippine banana production and exports

The Philippines' banana industry produced approximately 8.69 million tonnes of bananas in 2024. Approximately 50% of production is Cavendish. Philippine banana production occurs year-round.

The Philippines export fresh bananas to multiple markets including Japan, Korea, China and the Middle East.

Australian banana production

The Australian banana industry is well established, producing 368,735 tonnes of bananas valued at \$697.8 million in 2023-24. Bananas are produced year-round with peak production occurring between March and November. Approximately 97% of bananas grown in Australia are Cavendish.

Bananas are predominately grown in Queensland (94%) with the major growing regions being the Cassowary Coast (Tully, Innisfail and Kennedy), the Atherton Tablelands and Lakeland. Bananas are also grown in northern New South Wales, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

Banana imports

We made a policy determination 2009 permitting the importation of bananas from the Philippines, subject to biosecurity requirements. No trade has occurred. Australia does not currently permit the import of fresh bananas from any market.

Keep informed

Learn more about this [assessment of alternative measures for Cavendish bananas from the Philippines](#).

Subscribe to '[Biosecurity risk analysis plant](#)' to receive notices about plant biosecurity policies.

Web agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis

Email plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au

Phone 1800 900 090 (When prompted select option 1, then option 1)

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Australia and their continuing connection to land and sea, waters, environment and community. We pay our respects to the Traditional Custodians of the lands we live and work on, their culture, and their Elders past and present.

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