



June 2026

## ***Fact sheet: Assessment of alternative measures for bananas from the Philippines***

# **Notice of intention and issues paper**

### **Key points**

- We are conducting a [Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis](#) (BIRA) for fresh Cavendish bananas from the Philippines as prescribed under the *Biosecurity Act 2015* and the *Biosecurity Regulation 2016*.
- On 16 June 2026, we published a notice of intention signalling the commencement of the BIRA process.
- We have released an issues paper for a 30-calendar day feedback period. This paper outlines the assessment process. It 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 stakeholders to provide comments on any aspects of the issues paper by 16 July 2026. We also invite stakeholders to contribute scientific information relevant to this assessment.
- Stakeholders can submit feedback and information to [plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au](mailto:plantstakeholders@aff.gov.au)
- We are holding virtual information sessions to discuss this with interested stakeholders. For more information and to register, please visit our website: [agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines](https://agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines)
- Additionally, we have published a report summarising the technical visit to the Philippines we conducted in late March 2026. The report outlines the scope and purposes of the visit, areas visited, key observations and next steps.

### **Summary of the BIRA process**

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

- issue a notice of intention to conduct the BIRA, this starts the 30-month timeframe to complete 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, this includes an option for stakeholders to request the Inspector-General of Biosecurity (IGB) to review the process for conducting the analysis
- publish a final BIRA report, this signifies 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.

We recognise that specific expert advice may be required for this assessment. To support this, we are establishing an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) comprising of experts in banana pests and diseases, production practices and pest management systems to provide independent, expert advice on this assessment.

If the assessment finds that there are measures that can reduce the biosecurity risk to achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection (which is very low but not zero), we must complete several further steps before trade could start.

More information is available on our website: [agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines](https://agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines)

## Next steps

Following the feedback period on the issues paper, we will consider stakeholder comments in preparing the draft report. We expect to release the draft report in early 2027.

## About this assessment

On 16 September 2025, we notified stakeholders that we would be 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.

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.

From September to November 2025, we held virtual and in-person information sessions. This was to explain the assessment process, how we are engaging with stakeholders and answer any questions.

From 23 to 27 March 2026, we completed a technical visit to the Philippines to gather information on their commercial banana production, pest management and export practices. We published a report summarising this visit on our website.

More information is available on our website: [agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines](https://agriculture.gov.au/banana-Philippines)

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