

Our ref: CTS 13561/22

22 August 2022

Mr Peter Creaser
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Plant Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
imports@awe.gov.au

Dear Mr Creaser

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 2022 regarding the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) request for submissions on the 'Draft report for Okra from India: Biosecurity import requirements' (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and notes that the importation of fresh okra fruit for human consumption from all commercial production areas of India will be permitted, subject to specific quarantine measures. My department notes that DAFF has identified 11 quarantine pests of biosecurity concern for Australia that have the potential to be associated with the proposed importation.

DAF agrees that the unrestricted risk estimates for the 11 quarantine pests exceed Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP) and therefore additional biosecurity measures are required to mitigate the risks. My department notes that DAFF has proposed risk mitigation measures for these pests. These measures are consistent with the existing import policies for similar pests associated with various fresh fruit from several countries including Chile, China, Indonesia, Japan, Pacific Island countries, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan, the United States of America, and Vietnam.

My department supports the risk mitigation measures proposed in the draft report, including area freedom or fruit treatment for fruit flies; and consignment freedom verified by pre-export visual inspection (and if detected) remedial action for mealybugs, thrips, spider mites and scale.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. DAF would appreciate involvement in any further review processes leading to the finalisation of this report, and to

be kept informed of any potential biosecurity risks that are identified after the policy is in place.

If you require any further information, please contact Dr Abu-Baker Siddique, Senior Scientist, Plant Biosecurity and Product Integrity in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries on 07 3708 8506 or by email at Abu-Baker.Siddique@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

Robert Gee
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries