

David D



Queensland  
Government

Department of  
Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 32193/19

13 JAN 2020

Dr Marion Healy *MM* 20/1/20  
First Assistant Secretary  
Biosecurity Plant Division  
Department of Agriculture  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

*Marion*  
Dear Dr Healy

Thank you for your correspondence of 18 October 2019, regarding the Department of Agriculture's (DA) request for submissions on the *'Draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh pomegranate whole fruit and processed 'ready to eat' arils from India'* (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and notes that DA has identified 14 quarantine pests potentially associated with fresh pomegranate whole fruit, of which three of these pests are potentially associated with processed 'ready to eat' aril imports and are therefore of biosecurity concern to Australia. My Department agrees that the unrestricted risk estimates for these pests exceed Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP) and therefore additional biosecurity measures are required to mitigate the risks.

My Department notes that DA has proposed risk mitigation measures for these pests that are consistent with the existing import policies for similar pests associated with various fresh fruit from different countries including Chile, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the United States of America and Vietnam.

My Department supports the risk mitigation measures proposed in the draft report. Mitigating measures for whole fresh fruit are: area freedom or fruit treatment for fruit fly; appropriate packaging measures combined with pre-export visual inspection for scale insects, mites, thrips and mealybugs; and area freedom or a systems approach (approved by the DA) for bacterial blight of pomegranate. Mitigating measures for processed arils are: area freedom in combination with a systems approach or fruit treatment.

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Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft report. My Department 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 on telephone 07 3708 8506 or email [abu-baker.siddique@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:abu-baker.siddique@daf.qld.gov.au).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth Woods".

**Dr Elizabeth Woods**  
**Director-General**  
**Department of Agriculture and Fisheries**