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31/03/2023

Ms Monica Collins
Acting First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Plant and Science Services Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
monica.collins@agriculture.gov.au

Dear Ms Collins

Thank you for the Biosecurity Advice 2022-P12 dated 16 December 2022 regarding the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's (DAFF) invitation to comment on the '*Draft pest risk analysis for bacterial pathogens in the genus Xylella*' (the draft report).

The purpose of the draft report is to justify the previous emergency measures implemented by DAFF to prevent the entry of *Xylella* species into Australia on nursery stock and seed. Further to this, the draft report has identified, through pest risk analysis, that some measures require amendment.

DAFF carried out the pest risk analysis to determine appropriate import measures for *Xylella* species. The draft report proposes that biosecurity measures are largely consistent with the current emergency measures but with some amendments, as indicated below:

- changing regulation of host species from family level to genus level
- mandating that laboratory test reports accompany phytosanitary certificates for tissue culture materials
- increasing assurance and verification of *Xylella* species status by including molecular testing of nursery stock and tissue cultures.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft pest risk analysis and supports its outcomes and the proposed risk management measures. DAF appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft risk analysis and looks forward to further involvement in the review processes leading to the finalisation of this report along with ongoing consultation and engagement around exceptions that occur.

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