



Department of
Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 29027/18

22 OCT 2018

Dr Marion Healy
First Assistant Secretary
Biosecurity Plant Division
Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601


Dear Dr Healy

Thank you for your letter of 8 August 2018 regarding the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' (DAWR) request for submissions on the 'Draft pest risk analysis for *Pepino mosaic virus* and pospiviroids associated with tomato seed' (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and notes that it provides scientific justification for introducing emergency measures for importing tomato seeds for sowing. These measures were implemented after the first detection of *Potato spindle tuber viroid* (PSTVd) in Australia, and subsequently the same measures are applied to *Pepino mosaic virus* and pospiviroids for the same purpose. My Department also notes that DAWR considers that the current emergency measures with minor changes are adequate to mitigate the risk of entry of *Pepino mosaic virus* and pospiviroids into Australia associated with imported seeds of tomato for sowing. Therefore, DAWR proposes the emergency measures as standard import conditions for tomato seeds associated with these pests.

My Department supports the risk management measures proposed in the draft report provided that these measures are maintained as described, and in particular that the numbers of seeds tested for pests of quarantine concern are not reduced. However, DAF scientific experts are concerned about the non-quarantine status of PSTVd in the draft report (page 1). The evidence for the establishment of PSTVd throughout Australia is not conclusive amongst the scientific community. It is DAF's understanding that most outbreaks in Australia have occurred in protected cropping situations, and have been or are being eradicated; with the exception of Carnarvon, Western Australia. Therefore, my Department requests that quarantine measures against PSTVd be reconsidered.

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 protocol is in place.

If you require any further information, please contact Dr Abu-Baker Siddique, Senior Plant Health Scientist, Biosecurity Queensland, 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 black ink that reads "Elizabeth Woods". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Elizabeth Woods
Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries