15 MAY 2019

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 18 March 2019, regarding the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources' (DAWR) request for submissions on the ‘Draft report for the review of biosecurity import requirements for fresh Chinese jujube fruit from China’ (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and notes that DAWR has identified eight pest species of biosecurity concern for Australia, that have the potential to be associated with fresh Chinese jujube fruit imports. My department agrees that the unrestricted risk estimates for these pests exceed Australia’s appropriate level of protection, and therefore, additional biosecurity measures to mitigate the risks are required.

My department notes that DAWR 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 China, Chile, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, Taiwan, Korea, the United States of America.

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

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 on 07 3708 8506 or by email at abu-baker.siddique@daf.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Ms Bernadette Ditchfield
Acting Director-General
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries