



Queensland  
Government  
Department of  
Agriculture and Fisheries

Reference: CTS 00570/21

8 FEB 2021

Dr Chris Parker  
First Assistant Secretary  
Biosecurity Plant Division  
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Dr Parker

Thank you for your letter of 6 November 2020 regarding the Australian Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment's (DAWE) request for submissions on the '*Draft group pest risk analysis for soft and hard scale insects on fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage imports*' (the draft report).

The Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) has reviewed the draft report and notes that DAWE has identified 243 soft scale and 331 hard scale insect species as pests of biosecurity concern for Australia that have the potential to be associated with fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage imports. DAF notes that no plant viruses of biosecurity concern are known to be transmitted by these scale insect pests.

DAF also notes that DAWE has existing quarantine measures for scale insect pests, and that the proposed measures in the draft report are consistent with the existing policy and will reduce the associated biosecurity risk to an acceptable level for Australia. The measures currently used by DAWE are either pre-export visual inspection, a systems approach, treatment or area freedom.

DAF has reviewed the draft report and supports the pest risk assessment and agrees that the proposed quarantine measures for scale insects as described in the draft report meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP) for fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage imports. However, to increase clarity, DAF suggests adding plant species names alongside the interception data included in Tables 11.1 and 11.2 (draft report pages 237 and 238). This suggestion was raised during the DAWE consultation session with the Australian State and Territory Governments held via teleconference on 17 December 2020.

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 Scientist, Biosecurity Queensland on 07 3708 8506 or by email at [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**