



Department of  
**Primary Industries and  
Regional Development**

# Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

**Submission:**

***Draft group pest risk analysis for soft and hard scale insects  
on fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage imports***

**2 February 2021**



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## Introduction

Western Australia remains relatively free from many quarantine pests present in other parts of Australia or in other countries. The state's geographical isolation in conjunction with a robust plant biosecurity system—including border quarantine checkpoints, inter- and intrastate regulatory controls, industry and public awareness campaigns, and specific and general surveillance programs—help maintain this status.

Under the *Biosecurity and Agricultural Management Act 2007* (BAM Act), the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) administers general and specific legislative requirements, which underpin plant biosecurity in Western Australia. This includes regulating the movement of potential carriers such as plant material, machinery and seeds into and within the state.

Plants and plant products may be imported into the state subject to general import conditions, with specified import conditions for commodities or pests where appropriate. Underpinning these general and specific import conditions is the legislative requirement for all potential carriers to be presented for inspection upon entry into Western Australia. The detection of any quarantine pests during an inspection results in remedial action.

Ongoing surveillance systems are also in operation in Western Australia with targeted surveillance activities operating alongside an effective passive surveillance program. These result in suspect samples submitted for identification to the DPIRD Diagnostic Laboratory Services or the Pest and Disease Information Service.

Biosecurity concerns are communicated through a variety of platforms to growers and the wider community ensuring public awareness of current issues. DPIRD also utilises a range of extension opportunities to raise awareness in the Western Australian community to report anything unusual.

DPIRD's MyPestGuide (online and mobile application) assists industry and the community to identify and report the presence of pests and diseases. Industry awareness and participation is also achieved via programs such as HortGuard and GrainGuard, and includes the development of industry biosecurity plans and other extension material.

In maintaining Western Australia's freedom from quarantine pests DPIRD continues to take a strong interest in all biosecurity risk analyses and related documents and decisions made by the Australian Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

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## General Comments

The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) has considered the draft report and welcomes DAWRs ongoing recognition of WA prohibited organisms (s12) as regional pests.

DPIRD will support the findings of this review pending resolution of the following comments and recommendations.

Western Australia continues to take a strong interest in all import risk analyses and any related documents and decisions made by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

## Comments regarding pest risk management

### 6.1 Measures for soft and hard scales quarantine pests

There is no mention of sample size requirements for pre-export phytosanitary inspection by the exporting country. Whilst acknowledging the inspections are to be undertaken in accordance with ISPMs 7, 12, 23 & 26 – will these inspections be at Australia's standard biosecurity sampling protocol of 600 units per consignment?

## Comments regarding Appendix C: Pest categorisation of Diaspididae (hard scales)

### *Fiorinia japonica* Kuwana

**Comment:** The draft has listed *F. japonica* as absent from Western Australia. Although the wording *absent from Western Australia* correctly represents the status for Western Australia, the wording is out of step with other *declared pest, prohibited by WA* that are listed in the draft report.

**Recommendation:** DPIRD requests that the common wording *Declared pest, prohibited by WA (Government of Western Australia 2018)* be used.

### *Furcaspis biformis* (Cockerell)

**Comment:** *Furcaspis biformis* is a Declared pest, prohibited by WA under the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act, 2007 but has not been further assessed in line with other Declared pests prohibited by WA.

**Recommendation:** DPIRD requests that *F. biformis* be considered further in the pest categorisation process and if applicable determine its unrestricted risk associated with fresh fruit, vegetable, cut-flower and foliage pathway.

### *Lepidosaphes pinnaeformis* (Bouché)

**Comment:** The draft has listed *L. pinnaeformis* as absent from Western Australia. Although the wording *absent from Western Australia* correctly represents the status for Western Australia, the wording is out of step with other *declared pest, prohibited by WA* that are listed in the draft report.

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**Recommendation:** DPIRD requests that the common wording *Declared pest, prohibited by WA (Government of Western Australia 2018)* be used.