Friday 14 August 2026

## *Webinar: Decrowned pineapples from India and Indonesia – draft report*

# Webinar transcript

Alex McAlpine, Assistant Director Stakeholder Engagement Team

I work in the stakeholder engagement team here at the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, so I'll chair today's session. Before we kick off, just like to mention that we're going to record the presentation part of today. We won't record the question session at the end, just in the hope it might help people feel more comfortable with asking questions.

Let us know if you have any concerns and we'll publish the recording on our website. So it's up there if anyone was unable to make it today. So the purpose of today's session is to chat about the draft risk analysis report for Decrowned pineapples from India and Indonesia, which is currently up for a 60 day public consultation period. Specifically, today's session is to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions or seek clarification ahead of the close of consultation period, which is on the 14th of September.

So please feel free to use the chat or raise your hand if you have any questions along the way. And we'll have dedicated question time at the end. And before we kick off, I'll just introduce who's joining us today from DAFF. So we have representatives from our stakeholder engagement team, myself, Cathy, Steven. We also have the Plant Sciences and Risk Assessment team. So it's Brian, Alicia, Xuemei and Ryan. So they'll present, Alicia and Xuemei will present on the risk analysis process in the draft report today. And thank you to those who attended our session on the draft report at the Pineapples Field Day. So we really valued your engagement during that session. And we did receive a few comments and questions on food safety and implementation of measures. So I've invited representatives from the department that are responsible for these areas to assist us with answering any questions today. So we've got Tania from the Imported Food team and Doug from the Horticulture Imports team joining us today as well.

And given we have a smaller group today, we're thinking it might be good to go around the room and just introduce any of the industry or other representatives who are joining us today. So you could just tell us your name and the organisation you're representing.

Rian Pace, Pace Farming representing the pineapple industry.

Scott Wallace, Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers. We're the peak body for pineapples.

So in today's meeting, we'll chat about why we do risk analyses, provide a summary of the draft report findings, discuss how we do risk analyses and how that method was applied for this pineapples risk analysis, discuss pests of quarantine concern, the risk management measures, next steps, and then open to questions. So if you just go to the next slide.

So why we do risk analyses? As I'm sure you're aware, Australia is a member of the World Trade Organisation. This benefits our farmers as around two-thirds of our agricultural produce is exported. And as is the case for all trading nations, if you want to continue to be a major exporting nation, we must be prepared to consider import proposals from other countries. So we must meet our international obligations by assessing market access requests and, where possible, develop import conditions that are the least trade restrictive and are scientifically justified.

So, we've commenced this particular risk analysis in response to separate requests from India and Indonesia to export fresh decrowned pineapples to Australia. As both countries have similar pests, we decided to assess both under a single import risk analysis. It's just important to note that we only accept imports when we are confident biosecurity risk can be managed to an appropriate level of protection, or ALOP.

Which is why we do risk analyses like this one to assess what those biosecurity risks are and if and how they can be managed. So Australia's ALOP is the level of biosecurity protection we aim to achieve. It is expressed as providing a high level of protection for plant, animal and human life and health aimed at reducing risk to a very low level but not to zero. And we'll talk through that in more detail shortly.

I just wanted to add, because of our World Trade Organisation obligations, our risk analyses can't take into account the potential economic impact of market competition or the net national benefit resulting from imports. Our trading partners use these same principles when assessing our trade requests. However, we do assess the economic impact of pests and diseases entering, establishing and spreading in Australia as a result of importing a product.

So I'll now hand over to Alicia from our Technical Plant Science and Risk Assessment (PSaRA) team to take you through the report in more detail. Thanks, Alicia.

Alicia De Mamiel, Director Tropical Horticulture PSaRA

Thanks Alex and hi everyone. So I did attend the field day, so I think I may have met both of you at the field day. So the presentation today will be quite similar to what we did at the field day where I'll just go through the methodologies of risk assessments in general.

And so I have my team who worked on the project with me online today and I'll talk through the outcomes and findings of this and details of the report in more detail. And we'll go through a little bit more detail than what I did at the field day as well. And then we'll have our questions. So to kick it off with this to start, so Alex mentioned that the draft report is out for consultation and this slide here is just a high level summary of what's been proposed in the draft report. So the outcome of the risk assessment proposes that the importation of commercially produced pineapples to Australia from all commercial production areas of India and Indonesia can be permitted subject to a range of biosecurity requirements.

So there were eight quarantine pests that have been identified as not achieving our appropriate level of protection and therefore will require specific risk management measures to reduce that risk. We have proposed those risk management measures and those measures in combination with operational systems to reduce that risk to an acceptable level.

So as I said, before we go into the details of the report, I'll just do a bit of a session on the risk analysis process.

So this slide here shows you our high level overview of the steps we undertake when we conduct a risk assessment. And so this is the method we use for all of our plant import risk analysis and it's what we've also followed to conduct the pineapple assessment.

So our risk assessment is a process that we really aim to just evaluate the biological or other scientific and economic evidence to determine whether an organism is A, a pest, B, should be regulated, and C, the strength of any risk management measures to be taken against that pest.

So there are several steps in our risk assessment process, the first one being initiation. So this involves identifying the import pathway and potential pest to be considered for the risk assessment. So when we talk about an import pathway, what we're referring to is the commodity under analysis. So that's specifically fresh, whole, de-crowned pineapple fruit and fruit that has been commercially produced in India and Indonesia.

The next step is our pest categorisation stage. So this is a series of questions that we go through for all of the identified pests in the initiation stage. So it's like a funnelling out process. So we start off with a large number of pests and we funnel those out through a series of questions to work out which pest requires further assessment.

So that third step is our further assessment section. So that's what we call our risk assessment, a pest risk assessment. We assess how likely that pest is to enter establish and spread in Australia. And then we assess the consequences or the impact of that pest if it was to establish in Australia.

We combine those estimates of likelihood and consequence to determine what we call our unrestricted risk for each pest. And so that stage works out if a pest meets our ALOP or does not meet our ALOP. If it doesn't meet our ALOP, we move on to step 4, which is our pest risk management section. And so here, all those pests that don't meet ALOP, we will propose risk management measures that would be required to reduce the risk of those pests to our acceptable level.

So in the next slides I'll just go through those four steps or three steps in particular in a lot more detail. So I'll start off with our pest categorisation process, so that's step two. After step one, we've identified all of the pests that need further assessment. We're going through this funnel process. We have a series of questions that we ask to funnel out those pests.

So the first question is we ask if the pest is present in the exporting area. So in this case, is the pest present in India or Indonesia? If it's not present in the exporting country, we then knock it off and we don't assess it further. We then ask the question, is it absent from Australia? Or is it present in Australia, but under official control? So, if it is already present in Australia, we'll knock the pest off and not assess it further.

For those pests that are present in Indonesia or India and are not present in Australia or not under official control, we then look at the pathway. So we ask the question, does it have the potential to be on the pathway? So as I said before, that pathway is specifically commercially produced decrowned pineapple fruit. And the key consideration here is the fruit. So a number of pests that have been identified in the initiation stage are usually knocked off because they're associated with other parts than the fruit in this question here, or it doesn't have the potential to be on the fruit when common production practices are applied.

So if we answer yes to that question, then we need to ask the next question. Can it establish and spread? So does the pest have the potential to establish and spread in Australia? If it doesn't, it gets knocked off. And the last question is, does it have potential to have economic consequences or environmental consequences? If it does, then it won't get knocked before carrying it through. So I'll just pause here because I see there's a hand up around that methodology. So happy to answer a question around there.

Rian Pace

Yeah, thanks very much for getting to me so quickly. I just wanted to just ask about that. You spoke about just focusing on fruit for decrowned pineapple, but you know there is a bit of an issue there. Within the industry, you know, some of the top is basically left on the pineapple, even during de-crowning. So how do you, like, to what level do you then decide that it is acceptable or not? And you can just rule it out completely when there is some top left on that piece of fruit.

Alicia De Mamiel

Yeah, that's a good question. So the pests that are being knocked off in this section are usually the ones that are to do with the plant leaves. So if it's actually to do with the crown, it is considered with a little bit more scrutiny. Normally, most of them are around the soils, around the leaves, all of those things, they get knocked off. But then we also have to consider the commercial production practices. So if it is knocked off and it doesn't have the ability to, once it's getting knocked off, to then, you know, attach itself to the fruit, that'll get knocked off. We're really only looking at the ones that are, you know, associated with that fruit maybe hiding under the bracks, maybe the basal leaves, because it can still be a little bit there. So we'll look at that. But most ones that feed on the crown would be removed. So things like mealy bugs that only feed on the crown would be removed, but there are mealy bugs that do feed on the fruit, so I would consider that one as well. So there's a little bit of judgement there to really look at the biology of that fruit, its real association of where it is with that plant, and then sort of the how our production practices could, see that would potentially still be on the fruit. Normally, because it's a potential, we would probably carry most things through. Does that make sense? Hopefully that answers your questions. We don't just knock it off if it's not there. We really do look at it just to make sure.

Rian Pace

And from a plant pathogen side of things also gets considered as well with those, you know, what's remaining of the basal leaves.

Alicia De Mamiel

Pathogens as well. So it has the potential to be associated with that fruit. Yes, we will. If it's really just a pathogen of the, like for fruit rots, for something that is basal leaves, I'm going to have to default to my technical team. So Xuemei, I'm not sure we actually even did identify anything that was causing basal leaf issues, but I'll ask you because you're more in depth of the actual pests.

Xuemei Ji Assistant Director, Tropical Fruits

Yeah, I'm not aware of any pest which is specifically related to pests which we knocked off. Yeah, well, as you said, I agree with you that some of the pests we removed because it's only associated with some leaf material, so in the vegetative stage, yeah.

Alicia De Mamiel

All right, so yeah, so we've then analysed the ones that could be potentially associated with the basal leaves. Thanks, Xuemei. That probably clarified it a bit. So short answer, yes, that's considered and not removed out of this funnelling process.

Rian Pace

Yeah, okay. As long as it's considered, just because there obviously is some plant tissue coming in with the fruit, no matter how good they are. So, you know, as long as it's fully assessed, and yeah, I suppose that's good enough.

Alicia De Mamiel

Yeah, yeah, so to clarify that, yep, so no, we don't knock it out of the funnel because there is a potential that it could still be associated with that fruit because it's attached to the basal leaves. We'll then look at it in more detailed analysis in the likelihood stage, so that assessment stage where we then really look a little bit further of the likelihood by considering their production practices and any other relevant science and other factors to consider. So at the categorisation stage, Xuemei has clarified, it's not taken off yet.

Rian Pace

No, yeah, that's great. And just to confirm, when I'm talking about basal leaves, I'm talking about the basal leaves of the actual crown. So it's in the top of the fruit where it's been de-crowned, not so much actual basal leaves of the, yeah, yeah, of the fruit itself, like it's up the top where they've chopped the top off but the base, so that's been considered for further assessment.

Alicia De Mamiel

All right, so that's the pest categorisation stage. Shall we move to the next slide then, and we'll go to the next step. So, when we look at the categorisation stage, we just consider the basic production practices applied. So as well, so they will be things like on-farm practices and the use of clean planting material, post-harvest practices of cleaning, grading, and packing and inspection. But we consider that at a really low level because we do note that there is some variances among exporters, there are some variances between the two countries and there's variances in the way that they apply that. So it's really at a very low level we consider that as part of the production as part of that, I guess, potential assessment categorization stage.

So just a quick refresher. So that's the first two steps of our process. The next step we'll talk about is step 3, which is the pest risk assessment part of the process. So for those of you who undertake risk assessments on your farm or in your business, you would know that a risk is made-up of those two key factors, so that likelihood or probability that something will occur and the impact or the consequence if that does occur. So that's basically what we're doing in our step three of our risk analysis process. So I'll go through that in further detail. So if we head to the next slide.

So for our likelihood assessments, the first thing that we consider is what's the likelihood of entry? So we will look at how likely is that pest will arrive on or in that commodity and be distributed to a new host. So that's the important part is that we don't actually just think about it arriving at the border of Australia, but we also then think about it: will it enter Australia and find its way to a new host?

And then we look at the likelihood of establishment. So if the pest does arrive in Australia, has found its way to and distributed to a new host, how likely will it continue to survive and establish in Australia? And then we will consider if it does arrive and survive in Australia, how likely is it to spread? We use risk matrices to combine those various likelihoods to determine the overall likelihood of entry, establishment, and spread.

So that was the likelihood element side of it. We then look at the potential consequences for each pest. So we'll assess various consequences. So if that pest was to establish in Australia, including the potential for its impact on plant health and on the environment, so not just plant health on pineapples, but for all hosts of that pest, the cost to eradicate and control that pest if it was to establish in Australia, what are the consequences or the impact on non-commercial values and the impacts on domestic and international trade.

We assess all of those elements and determine the overall consequence rating based on the impact scores, which we give for each of those key elements. And so then the unrestricted risk then, the way that we determine that is we combine the overall likelihood and the consequence scores that we had established in those two previous steps to get our unrestricted risk rating.

So our biosecurity system aims to keep that risk posed by imports to a very low level, but not to zero. So if we had to do a risk, a zero risk approach, that would mean we couldn't import anything or have any international trade. So in light of that, we just apply an Australia's appropriate level of protection to a very low level or below.

So after we've done the pest risk assessment for each pest, the pests that have an unrestricted risk of very low or below meets Australia's ALOP. Therefore, no additional risk managements are required to reduce that risk. However, for those pests where the unrestricted risk estimates are low or above that exceeds our appropriate level of protection and therefore, we will propose risk management measures to reduce that risk to an acceptable level.

So some examples of our risk management measures that could be applied are chemical treatments like fumigations or a cold or a heat treatment, sourcing fruits from pest-free areas or areas where pests or sites that are pests free, a systems approach where the risk is cumulatively reduced by a series of activities or any other types of risk management measures that might be considered appropriate.

But it's really important to note here that regardless if a pest meets ALOP, so it's been assessed as meeting ALOP and not having measures, all consignments are required to be inspected both before export and on arrival to detect any quarantine pests. So if those pests were considered to achieve ALOP and have no measures, we would still action those pests if they are detected on arrival, and then we'll also consider whether remedial action is required to reduce that risk before we release it from quarantine. So the summary of the method we followed to conduct a risk, so that's basically that summary of how we conduct all of our risk assessments. And that's what we follow to do our pineapple assessment. And so I'll just pause there. So if there's any other questions on the methodology, I'll just continue on with the presentation and hand over to Xuemei, who will now just talk through all of the outcomes of those assessments in our draft report.

Xuemei Ji

If there are no questions, I will just start. Thank you, Alicia. This slide is taken from the draft report and provides an overview summary, overall summary of the risk analysis process for the decrowned pineapples from India and Indonesia. Initially, we identified 160 pests as being potentially associated with pineapple in India and or Indonesia. One, there's one passed. *Metamasius hemipterus – bettle* was removed from the from consideration because the previous record from Indonesia was determined to be a misidentification. And this brings total to 159 pests present in India and or Indonesia, and shown in the first column here. Of these 159 pests, 101 are already present in Australia and a lot on official control and, therefore, do not require further assessment.

This left then 58 pests for further consideration. Of those 58, 48, you can see 48 pests were assessed as not having the potential to enter on the commercially produced decrowned pineapple pathway and therefore do not consider further. Then the remaining 10 pests were assessed as having potential to enter, establish, and spread, and potential for consequence in Australia, and therefore require further pest risk assessment. So these 10 pests, finally, these 10 pests were progressed to a full pest risk assessment. The risk assessments were presented in the chapter 3 of the draft report. Two pests were assessed as achieving ALOP, but eight pests didn't achieve ALOP, and therefore risk management measures are required.

This slide shows an example from the pest categorisation step taken from the Appendix B of the draft report. So after we have identified all the pests which have the potential to be imported on the commodity, we then narrow this down as explained by Alicia in the methodology, we narrow down through the pest categorization process to identify those pests that may be of biosecurity concern. For example, here, the *Parasa lepida, w*hich is nettle caterpillar. It is present in India and Indonesia and it is absent from Australia. However, it is not associated with pineapple fruit and therefore does not have the potential to enter on the pathway. As a result, this pest does not progress further through the pest categorization process.

Here is another example. This slide shows a screenshot from Appendix B for this *Dysmicoccus neobrevipes*, the grey pineapple mealy bug. Unlike the nettle caterpillar on the previous slide, this pest is present in India and Indonesia and is absent from Australia, it has the potential to enter the pathway and has the potential for established spread and has potential for economic consequences. Therefore, as it passed through all these questions, it qualified for further assessment in our risk analysis.

So as I explained earlier, of the 10 pests that progressed to full risk assessment, 2 hard scale species were assessed as achieving ALOP and therefore didn't require specific risk management measures. And 8 pests, however, didn't achieve ALOP and so require risk management measures. These 8 pests include one hard scale species, 6 mealybug species, and one thrips species.

So for those eight pests that require risk management measures, the draft report proposes the following measures. So fruit treatment considered effective against all life stages of these pests, such as methyl bromide fumigation or irradiation, or a system approach considered to be effective in mitigating the risks of scales, mealybugs, and thrips on decrowned pineapple fruit and approved by the department. So importantly, these are the proposed measures and are not final, as we are currently at the draft report stage. We welcome all your feedback on these measures during this consultation period.

Okay, I will just explain a little bit more about the system approach here. This is an option for risk management measure for hard scales, mealybugs and thrips on the pineapple fruit pathway. So according to ISPM 5, a systems approach is recognised in international standards as a measure defined as a risk, a pest risk management option that integrates different measures, at least two of which are independently with cumulative effect. What does that mean is it can be an alternative measure to a treatment and combines multiple measures applied at different points, at different points along the production and export pathway. So rather than like treatment, rather than rely on single mitigation step. Risk is managed through a series of integrated measures that work together in a cumulative manner to achieve Australia's ALOP.

We have taken on feedback from international and also our domestic stakeholders regarding the visibility of the proposed system approach. Therefore, in this draft report, we have added more information around potential components of a system approach and how they reduce risk to provide greater clarity and guidance, in particular to exporting NPPOs when preparing a submission if they would like to consider a systems approach. The draft report outlines some examples of potential components that could be important for inclusion in a systems approach.

These being like registration and auditing of farms and packing houses, use of cleaning, planting material, pest monitoring, and preventative management practices in the plantation, sorting, grading, cleaning, and quality checks of fruit, inspection process including internal inspection, export, phytosanitary inspection and certification. We have also included a brief explanation of how these components contribute to risk reduction and provide assurance that the systems approach is effectively implemented in the Appendix C of the draft report. It is important to note that these components are not exhaustive and additional or alternative components may also be considered.

Should India or Indonesia wish to use a systems approach, there's a well-defined process, you can see at the right side, that will need to be followed. So the exporting countries, NPPO, they would need to do a submission, submit their proposal, outline the components of the systems approach and also provide evidence to demonstrate how they collectively manage the risks posed by here, like hard scales, mealybugs, thrips, we will assess the proposal to determine whether it achieves Australia's ALOP.

If an acceptable systems approach is agreed to, the department would undertake verification activities such as audit to confirm that the measure can be effectively implemented. Then trade could then commence, but would be subject to ongoing compliance, monitoring and review. That concludes the overview of the draft report. I will now hand back over Alex to explain where we are in the risk analysis process and the next steps before we open up for discussion questions.

Alex McAlpine

Thanks, Xuemei. I see Samuel, you got your hand up. I don't know if you wanted to chat about that now before I move on.

Samuel Wakefield, Queensland Department of Primary Industries, Extension Horticulturist

I've just got a question about the fumigation as a treatment, whether that's, yeah, methyl bromide. I can't remember around which particular, whether it was fumigation with methyl bromide and or like a radiation, but is there an established scientific study or paper that demonstrates that that process, I know there was a bit of discussion that was raised at the field day around the types of pests like mealybugs and scales hiding in the fruit cavity or the flower cavity and then sort of becoming included when the fruit matures. Yeah, is there any sort of scientific evidence demonstrating that a fumigation treatment on pineapple controls those pests that are somewhat occluded, like through a gas exchange, or is that just sort of like an accepted treatment because there's an assumption that any aerial component of the fruit, you know, most fruits don't sort of have that characteristic, so you're either doing something which will systemically control a pest or is susceptible to some sort of gas treatment in the atmosphere surrounding the external surface of the fruit. Can you provide any more information on that?

Xuemei Ji

I think fumigation is an effective measure for this type of arthropods, for example, scales, mealy bugs based on fruit commodity. But I'm not aware of any specific evidence on pineapple demonstrating that mass biological fumigation, any experiment. I'm not aware of that specific evidence and I don't know whether anyone else is aware of that, but this has been accepted effective measure, treatment measure to deal with this kind of pests on fruit commodity.

Samuel Wakefield

Sure, but I guess with all due respect, ultimately, we're, you know, applying scientific process to review this and I think feelings around whether something's acceptable or not is probably not good enough when talking about, yeah, potential pest entry pathways.

Alicia De Mamiel

Yeah, if I could just add to that. So I hear your concerns and actually it was a concern that was raised when we did the Malaysian pineapple risk assessment. So where fumigation was also proposed as a measure. So as Xuemei says, we don't have a specific study on pineapples, but we do have a variety of studies on other commodities, not just even horticulture, but other things like timbers and other types of commodities where fumigants need to be demonstrating to absorb, you know, can absorb into substrates. So there is a wide range of whole heap of other materials which we look at to just see that effectiveness and at the right, what schedules these are being proposed at. So it's at those schedules which are appropriate to, I guess, be absorbed by different types like the substrates. There was that concern because we do have that thing about the blossom, the mealybugs in the blossom cups and will it penetrate just the hard skin. So we analysed all of that when we were doing the Malaysian pineapple pathway. And we've also, because that was also proposed, because it had been proposed before in previous policies as well, and it's actually had trade in pineapples under other policies under fumigation and even demonstrating through trade. So even though no scientific

evidence specific to pineapples, we've looked at the broader concept. And then through trade, it's demonstrating that it's been effective because that's the other avenue to just double check. So all of those components we then assess again to go, well, is it still appropriate to look at it, to offer that up as an option for India and Indonesia, as well.

Samuel Wakefield

Yeah, okay. Yeah, thanks for that response. I guess I'd still sort of question that somewhat, as sort of absence of evidence is not evidence of absence, but yeah. Yeah, I have some thoughts about that, but yeah, it's not my area of expertise, so yeah.

Sorry, I'll mention one other thing. So before I couldn't make comment when Ryan was talking about the top of the fruit and the remnant that would be sort of remain on the top, depending on how close cut that crown to the top of the fruit. A pest which I believe may sort of inhabit that sort of area, the basal white area of the leaves, which I guess if you're considering a pest that is potentially on the plant in terms of the leaves and around the base, the crown is essentially another plant on top of the piece of fruit. And so I'm not sure in terms of, there's one mite called the pineapple mite. The genus and species escapes me at this point in time. I don't have access to that, but I think it was ruled out because it was said to inhabit just the leaves and again, the sort of, you know, biology of the plant and the structure of the plant, you know, the crown is essentially kind of leaf. So we do see and there's established literature in Australia around if you have heavy mite infestation, we have a different kind of mite, pineapple red mite, which is *Dolichotetranychus floridanus*, and that can be present at high pest populations and sort of come up when the flower differentiates in the heart of the plant. Basically, when that flower is forming, it's in the base around where all the leaves are and it can inhabit then the crown and come up on the fruit when it's emerging and sort of be infested in the crown. So that's sort of not really a clear-cut definition of, well, it's on the leaves, you know, it's not going to be on the fruit because, yeah, it's sort of a bit of a grey line there, I think. And there will always be some basal white tissue with a certain amount of you know, tissue that's surrounding that that will remain on the plant. But yeah, that's probably, you know, the treatment that's proposed like fumigation or whatever is probably more likely to control that given the crevices. But yeah, I think my major concern would be more around the, yeah, the floral cavities.

Alicia De Mamiel

That is extremely helpful information and that's pretty much why we're actually out talking to stakeholders and in particular experts on pineapples because you've actually seen, you've just explained to us a little bit more that we can look into more around this and think more broadly in the literature around how mites behave. Can, yeah, double-check if there are, you know, more information out there that.

Xuemei Ji

Yeah, yeah. If you are talking about pineapple mite, and because of the any information we find is only associated with the leaves and pineapple, and I agree that as a basal leaves, but we require basal leaves to be removed. I can acknowledge that there may be some residue, you want to remove like 100%, probably 95% or 99%, there'll still be some relative tissue there. But the evidence I can see it's related, it's associated with the leaf, leaf material, not that part, not on the top of the pineapple, but rather the vegetative leaf, vegetable stage of the crown plant, the leaf of pineapple. But if you have some more additional information that it could be on that particular part, we would definitely consider that.

Samuel Wakefield

Yeah, I didn't have actually any extra information on that, but I had a look through that report and so I've got the I've got the name now. It's the genus species, it's *Schizotetranychus asparagi* or *asparagi* pineapple mite. And in terms of, yeah, the comment there is no, not associated with pineapple fruit, associated with the leaves of the pineapple. The reference in that table is to a Plant Health Australia 2016, which is actually, I think, the previous biosecurity plan for the industry, if I remember correctly, from that document, and it's there's actually no reference. It states in that document that it's a pest of the leaves, but there's actually no scientific reference in that paper, so you're referencing a document that states something that doesn't actually have a scientific reference. And I looked, tried to look, again, I haven't, this isn't my job, I haven't looked at, you know,

I don't have access to all the databases and everything, but I tried to look a little bit more around this species and there's very, very, very little information about it that I can find any published information on where it's located on the plant. So I think to offer very few reports and very little data to sort of rule it out based on it being on the leaves, based on, you know, something that's been referenced from a document that doesn't actually have a scientific paper associated with it.

Alicia De Mamiel

Take your point, we can look at that reference, look at it again. If there's not much information out there on the leaves, we also have to look at is it really actually on the fruit then? So if they're not finding it out on the fruit, then it doesn't seem to be a problem out there. But the next thing that we normally look at, we'd look at the genus then to see if it behaves that way in the same genus. Just to draw on more information if we don't have species specific information. So that's an avenue that we can kind of broaden our search a little bit more just to see if it's likely to behave that way. So there's a potential that it could, that actually species, even though there's no current literature on it, there may be a potential that it does. I mean, you raised really good points. We might want to just delve into this one a little bit more back on our desks and just look at it.

Samuel Wakefield

Yeah, so that just, I guess relates to that previous comment around the remnants of the crown that remains on the fruit. So, you know, even though it's not on the fruit, there are leaves attached to the fruit somewhat. And the part that remains really is the highest, like mites don't crawl around on the external surfaces they hide in the crevice in that basal white tissue, because that's where the cuticle is thinner and they're protected and the humidity is higher, like that's where they, that's the exact place that they inhabit. So the bit that's remaining is the highest risk portion and is probably technically classed as leads. So yeah, that's just my comment.

Alicia De Mamiel

Extremely helpful. Yeah, definitely. So we'll take that back with us and start looking at more and more detail on that one. Thank you. No, that's okay. Thank you for raising that. It's really, really helpful.

Samuel Wakefield

Thanks for your responses.

Alex McAlpine

Ah, Rian, did you want to ask a question now as well before we move on?

Rian Pace

Yeah, are we at the question point yet, or you guys wanna carry on for the for the moment, or what would you rather?

Alex McAlpine

There's one more slide about the next steps which I can do after the questions if you want to keep going.

Rian Pace

Sure. Anyway, I just, when it came up there around the Malaysian imports, can you tell me whether or not that fruit was waxed or not?

Alicia De Mamiel

Oh my goodness, I'd have to go back to figure out if that was part of their production practices. That's been, that's quite a long time, that one I don't remember off the top of my head. Yep.

Rian Pace

Fair enough. It's just, it's just fair enough. It's just mentioned here in the Indonesian versus Indian export, import, sorry. So one of the production pathways is waxed and one of the production pathways is not waxed

and yet the methyl bromide fumigation, sorry, is the same for both pathways, but there's actually evidence to say that waxing inhibits fumigation practices. So I suppose that was just a question around that. How can we assess them both and have the same controls when one is waxed and one is not?

Alicia De Mamiel

Yeah, interesting, because we know that only one company in Indonesia does the waxing, but not everybody does. So we didn't consider that to be a standard practice. But that's a good point that we'll think of when we're considering.

Rian Pace

In your document, it's got the standard practice is waxing.

Alicia De Mamiel

Yeah, all right. Well, that's another thing for us to look at. So the overall efficacy of fumigation, so you've raised some other points in there, so we'll consider that as well.

Rian Pace

Thank you.

Alex McAlpine

Thank you. I can just chat through this next step slide and then if you have any further questions we can go through. So, this is kind of our broader import risk analysis process, this diagram up on the slide. So, right now, as you know, at the draft report publication and public consultation stage, so it's the one with the circle around it, and this is just one step in many. So, once the consultation is complete, we'll carefully consider all the feedback received and prepare the final report.

And before we publish the final report, we'll engage with everyone who submitted comments to explain how that feedback was considered and addressed. And then publish the final report. And following that, we'll work to verify that India and Indonesia can meet the recommended risk management measures. If they can, these measures will be formalised as import conditions and published on BICON, which is Australia's biosecurity import condition system. At that point, the decision to commence imports becomes a commercial matter between exporters in India or Indonesia and importers in Australia, and the department will issue import permits where required. And finally, if imports do commence, the feasibility of trade will ultimately depend on Australian consumer demand, and all imports will of course be subject to the import conditions. So that's kind of the overview of the process. And this is the end of the presentation. And I'll just go to the next slide.

Alex McAlpine

Just hand back to Alicia.

Alicia De Mamiel

Sorry Alex, but yeah, sorry Alex, before you do, my technical team was considering that wax question just then in the background. So just to state for the record, so we've checked the Malaysian pineapple report and so there's no mention that fruit waxing is part of their production practices there. But as I said, we'll take on the big picture of proposing fumigation as an efficacious measure for this specific pathway and you've raised some sort of differences in production practices and some other avenues around fumigation. So we'll look at that a little bit deeper too. So I just thought I'd clarify that. Thanks.