



Department of
**Primary Industries and
Regional Development**

Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development

Submission:

Draft Review of Tomato seed born viroids and PepMV

2 October 2018



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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.



General Comments

Comment 1: DPIRD supports the methodology applied, analysis carried out and conclusions derived in this draft; and supports the new proposed phytosanitary measures which are appropriate to achieve Australia's ALOP of "Very Low".

Comment 2: DPIRD notes that DAWR is currently reviewing the risks presented by PSTVd and the possibility of regulating PSTVd as a regulated non-quarantine pest and supports the approach of maintaining the current emergency measures for tomato seed importation requiring testing for PSTVd until the assessment is completed. DPIRD requests the opportunity to review and provide comments on the assessment of PSTVd prior to the release of the provisional final policy review.

Pathology comments regarding the pest categorisation

Citrus exocortis viroid (CEVd)

Comment 1: *Citrus exocortis viroid* (CEVd) is listed as present in all states and territories in Australia and as such a PRA has not been carried out for this viroid. However, it is absent from Western Australia, and is recognised by the Commonwealth as a regional pest for Western Australia in the “Draft review of import conditions for apiaceous crop seeds for sowing into Australia” (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 2017). CEVd is regulated as a prohibited organism under s. 12 of the BAM Act 2007; and its entry into Western Australia is restricted under s. 15(1).

Comment 2: CEVd was intercepted in 17 lots out of 507 tomato seed lots sent to Australia for test by the Australian diagnostic laboratories in 2013 (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 2018), indicating it has potential to be on the seed pathway and poses a high risk for CEVd to be imported into Australia and subsequently into WA.

Comment 3: CEVd variants can induce diseases on tomato and other crops (Verhoeven, Jansen et al. 2004), and can infect citrus and grapevines (Department of Agriculture and Water Resources 2018), indicating that it has potential for economic consequences on a range of agricultural crops.

Recommendation 1: As CEVd is a regulated pest for Western Australia, DPIRD requests that it is recognised as a regional pest for Western Australia as recognised in previous assessments conducted by DAWR to maintain consistency between assessments of CEVd.

Recommendation 2: DPIRD requests that CEVd be considered further in the final report to establish its quarantine pest status for this pathway; and, where appropriate, a risk assessment conducted to determine an unrestricted risk estimate.

Recommendation 3: DPIRD requests the opportunity to review and provide comments on any changes relating to Western Australia prior to the release of the provisional final policy review.

References

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (2017). Draft review of import conditions for apiaceous crop seeds for sowing into Australia. Canberra, Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources (2018). Draft pest risk analysis for *Pepino mosaic virus* and pospiviroids associated with tomato seed. Canberra, Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Verhoeven, J. T. J., C. C. C. Jansen, T. M. Willems, L. F. F. Kox, R. A. Owens and J. W. Roenhorst (2004). "Natural infections of tomato by *Citrus exocortis viroid*, *Columnea latent viroid*, *Potato spindle tuber viroid* and *Tomato chlorotic dwarf viroid*." European Journal of Plant Pathology **110**(8): 823–831.