



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

4 May 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/14
FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR
TAHITIAN LIMES FROM NEW CALEDONIA

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum is to notify stakeholders of the release of the *Final Import Risk Analysis Report for Tahitian Limes from New Caledonia* and to advise stakeholders of the appeal period.

In response to an import access request from New Caledonia, Biosecurity Australia has conducted an import risk analysis (IRA) on a proposal to import Tahitian limes (*Citrus latifolia*) into Australia.

The final IRA report recommends quarantine measures for limes from New Caledonia to reduce the quarantine risk to a very low level to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection. This accords with Australia's international rights and obligations under the World Trade Organization's 'Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures'.

Biosecurity Australia's acting Chief Executive has issued the final IRA report and recommends a policy determination that would set quarantine conditions for the importation of Tahitian limes from New Caledonia into Australia. The recommended phytosanitary measures are outlined in the executive summary (Attachment 1) and further detail is given in the 'Import conditions' section of the final IRA report.

The final IRA report is available via the Biosecurity Australia website, www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au, or copies can be requested from Technical and Administrative Services:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6272 5094
Facsimile: (02) 6272 3307
E-mail: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

Appeal period

Stakeholders may appeal against the final IRA report on the grounds that there was a significant deviation from the process set out in the Import Risk Analysis Handbook (2003) that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder, and/or a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

Appeals should be sent to the Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP) by close of business 2 June 2006:

IRAAP Secretariat
Rural Policy and Innovation
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Facsimile: (02) 6272 5926
E-mail: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Technical and Administrative Services.

Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on our website, www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to policy memorandums will be publicly available. Comments may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of their identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked 'confidential' and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This import risk analysis (IRA) recommends that fresh Tahitian lime fruit from New Caledonia be allowed entry into Australia subject to phytosanitary measures for fruit flies, citrus scab, mealybugs and little fire ant (as a contaminating pest). These pests require the use of risk management measures, in addition to New Caledonia's standard commercial production practices, to reduce the risk to a very low level to meet Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

A combination of risk management measures and operational systems will reduce the risk associated with the importation of fresh Tahitian limes from New Caledonia to meet Australia's ALOP, specifically:

- systems approach for fruit flies (*Bactrocera curvipennis*, *B. psidii*, *B. tryoni* and *B. umbrosa*), including specific phytosanitary requirements for fruit flies – certified mature green fruit;
- inspection and remedial action for mealybugs (*Ferrisia virgata* and *Nipaecoccus filamentosus*) and little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*);
- orchard control of citrus scab (*Sphaceloma fawcettii*); and
- supporting operational systems to maintain and verify phytosanitary status.

Australia initiated an import risk analysis (IRA) for the importation of Tahitian limes from New Caledonia in March 1999, following a request from the New Caledonian Government for market access in May 1996. Biosecurity Australia circulated the technical issues paper in August 2002, the draft IRA report in September 2003 and the revised draft IRA in February 2005. Stakeholder comments were considered and material matters raised have been incorporated into, or addressed in, this final IRA report.

The *Final Import Risk Analysis Report* contains the following:

- Australia's framework for biosecurity policy and import risk analysis, the international framework for trade in plants and plant products, Australia's current policy for importation of fresh Tahitian limes and information on the background to this IRA;
- an outline of the methodology and results of pest categorisation and risk assessment;
- risk management measures;
- final import conditions for Tahitian limes from New Caledonia;
- further steps in the IRA process; and
- a table of stakeholders who commented on the revised draft IRA report and a summary of the issues raised by these stakeholders.

Detailed risk assessments were conducted for the pests that were categorised as quarantine pests, to determine an unrestricted risk estimate for each organism. For those pests for which the unrestricted risk was estimated to be above Australia's ALOP, risk management measures were identified and selected.

Consultation with the Direction des Affaires Vétérinaires Alimentaires et Rurales - New Caledonia (DAVAR-NC), and input from stakeholders on the draft import conditions, has resulted in a set of final risk management measures. Details of these measures, including their objectives, are provided within this final IRA report.

Biosecurity Australia has made a number of changes in the risk analysis following consideration of stakeholder comments on the revised draft IRA report. These changes include:

- Removal of *Tetranychus neocaledonicus* from the risk assessments for quarantine pests. This pest was considered a quarantine pest for Western Australia due to its absence from this State. However, this species has now been recorded in Western Australia, and therefore now only appears in Appendix 1 of this IRA.
- Removal of *Coccus viridis* from the risk assessments for quarantine pests. This pest was considered a quarantine pest for Western Australia due to its absence from this State. However, this species has now been recorded in Western Australia, and therefore now only appears in Appendix 1 of this IRA.
- A reduction in the probability of the distribution of *Sphaceloma fawcettii* from moderate to low in the final IRA report, based on reconsideration of the factors necessary for the production and transfer of conidia from discarded fruit or fruit waste to a susceptible host.