



1 July 2015

Biosecurity Advice 2015/06

Draft risk analysis report for the release of *Dactylopius tomentosus* 'fulgida' biotype for the biological control of coral cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mamillata*)

This Biosecurity Advice notifies stakeholders of the release of a draft risk analysis report to consider a proposal for the release of the cochineal insect *Dactylopius tomentosus* 'fulgida' biotype for the biological control of coral cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mamillata*). The draft report is being issued for 30 days consultation. Written comments and submissions are invited by 31 July 2015.

The Department of Agriculture has released a draft risk analysis report assessing an application from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland and the NSW Department of Primary Industries to release the cochineal insect *Dactylopius tomentosus* 'fulgida' biotype for the biological control of coral cactus (*Cylindropuntia fulgida* var. *mamillata*). In support of this application, the applicant has provided a submission detailing results of host specificity testing, along with other relevant information. This submission is included as an attachment to the draft report.

A preliminary draft of this report was distributed to state and territory departments of primary industry and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) through the Plant Health Committee (PHC). Comments received via this consultation process were incorporated into the draft risk analysis report.

The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Queensland and the NSW Department of Primary Industries submitted an application for the release of *Dactylopius tomentosus* 'fulgida' biotype in September 2014.

The Department of the Environment also has an approval process under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act 1999*. Under Section 303EE (4) of the EPBC Act, risk analysis reports prepared by the Department of Agriculture may be used by the Environment Minister in making a determination to include the item on the List of specimens suitable for live import (the live import list). The Department of Agriculture has consulted with the Department of the Environment prior to the release of the draft report and Environment agrees with the recommendations of the report.

The draft report proposes that the biological control agent should be released. The draft report has determined that the probability of off-target effects and potential consequences that would be associated with the release of *Dactylopius tomentosus* 'fulgida' biotype have been estimated to be negligible. A risk estimate of negligible meets Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

The draft report, attachment and information about the risk analysis process are available at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/risk-analysis/reviews/biological-control-agents.

In accordance with the IRA handbook 2011, this risk analysis has been undertaken as a non-regulated analysis of existing policy. Stakeholders will have up to 30 days to submit written comments on the draft report. Comments must be submitted by 31 July 2015.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact Plant Biosecurity.

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Lodging a submission: There is no specific format for a submission, but they must be in writing, and identify the relevant technical biosecurity issues being raised with supporting evidence. Preferably, submissions should be in Microsoft Word or other text-based formats and lodged electronically via email, but postal submissions are acceptable. Submissions should be received by the department within the stated comment period and addressed to:

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The department requests that, as a minimum, you provide your name and contact details with your submission. Please indicate if you do not wish to have personal information published with your submission or disclosed to third parties. Collected personal information

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