



Gocup Pastoral Pty Ltd TRADING AS ARDROSSAN NURSERIES - BATLOW

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Manager,
Technical & Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
GPO Box 858
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Dear Sir
RE: New Zealand Apple IRA.

We are a family business with over 50 years growing, packing and marketing experience in the Australian Apple Industry. In our opinion the Australian Apple Industry is in terms of skill levels technical knowledge and infrastructure at the cutting edge of the world apple industry.

In Australia we have relatively few comparative natural advantages over other Apple areas of the world. Disease and some insect freedom are some of those natural advantages.

Having reviewed the draft IRA for New Zealand Apples we have some major objections to make.

Any orchard inspection system must be ongoing through a season. Fire blight can manifest at other times than blossom time alone. Infection can occur at any time and indeed may occur following hail, heavy insect damage or at any time of severe stress for the tree.

Infection from other blocks is an extreme risk and surely some exclusion zone must be included around infected blocks. Similarly any block known to have an infection in previous seasons must surely be excluded for the increased potential of further infection the following year.

As marketers of fresh fruit we are well aware of the protocols that we must negotiate to send our fruit overseas inspection for insects is rarely accepted as sufficient safeguard, fumigation should be mandatory to prevent arrival of insects that could reduce our few competitive advantages.

Finally all production from areas that are known to harbor European Canker should be banned from importation due to the devastating nature of this disease.

We trust that you will consider our submission and react in the best interest of our rural industries and our clean environment.

Yours Sincerely