

THE APPLE FACTORY



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Technical & Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
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Re: NZ Import Risk Analysis

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report you forwarded re the proposed importation of apples from New Zealand.

In reply I would like to voice my opinion as concerns the diseases we are opening our industry up too – not only Fireblight but also European Canker and a host of other pests that will also come with any importation of their apples as there is no sure system in place to be 100% certain that Australian orchards will not be affected.

I am a 22 year old, fourth generation orchardist and would like to think that I have a future in this industry. As things stand with the prospect of this importation I feel that I can no longer look to the future in growing apples. The devastation to come from these new diseases and the associated costs to combat these diseases make apple growing prohibitive as the market price does not cover costs adequately at the moment let alone the extra chemicals and procedures that would have to then be followed.

I would like to think that on a scientific basis your analysis and procedures would be sufficient, but I know in reality that this is not so and it would only be a matter of time that the decimation of Australian orchards would take place – you can have the best policy and procedures on *paper* but history shows us that this is not enough where it matters, in the workplace ie our orchards

I would hope you would look long and hard into this submission and the obvious submissions to follow from other countries if New Zealand fruit and therefore fireblight is accepted. If this is to go ahead, I, one of the few continuing **young** orchardists, will also remove all apple trees and Australia will eventually become dependant on overseas markets for their entire supply of apples.

Yours faithfully

ADAM ROWETH