

"Adamilla" Batlow NSW 2730

Bio security Australia

31st August 08

Dear Sir,

As a second generation orchardist in Batlow I wish to explain to Biosecurity Australia my worry on future of orcharding in my case & also all Australia should apples & pears be imported & "fire blight" comes with it. them.

I understand pears from China are in country already & your Issue paper of 5th July asks for comment after this has happened!!

(I stand corrected if this has been the case!)

I understand from a Batlow grower who went to USA in 1980 & saw the affect fire blight had on apple trees, there is a reduction in yield of 25% which you have imposed on growers if you allow this happen. Also extra ^{expense} ~~cost~~ chemicals have to be used to try & overcome disease on trees & we would have to do this to try & salvage our income from crop we are growing, our livelihood from orchard. An extra burden.

You would be guilty of doing this damage to your fellow Australian apple & pear growers

Do you not realize pears are damaged much more than apples too

Growers should be able to sue your company for allowing this to happen. Check with Mr Rudd.

One has only to look at incompetence of people in Horse flu fiasco recently & you are in a similar situation to even consider this risk. (incompetent!)

N. Zealand stopped horses coming into their ~~country~~ land next day. Can't we Australians do same thing today to safeguard our industry.

Would you accept if your income (salary) was reduced 25% like orchard owners are having forced to accept if you allow disease (FB) to come to Australia. I think not! Be honest & ask yourself to consider this like I am now faced with. The expert panel should talk to 3 growers & be told of situation facing us (25% salary cut) to be fair you should have 3 growers to represent industry on panel.

Yours faithfully Bruce Wilkinson