



## Imported stone fruit and Biosecurity Australia's risk analysis process

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## Why import commodities we already have?

- Australia is a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO)
- The WTO is an international organisation dealing with global rules of trade between nations.





## The "SPS Agreement"

- Australia is a signatory to the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures
- This agreement is concerned with the application of food safety and animal and plant health regulations such as quarantine.



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## SPS Agreement

- The agreement recognises the right to enforce SPS measures but stipulates that they must be either scientifically justified or based on international standards
- Those measures should also be applied only to the extent necessary to protect human, animal or plant life, health or safety.



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## Importation of Stone Fruit

Currently permitted from:

- New Zealand - (fresh) apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches & plums (since 1986)
- USA - (fresh) cherries (since 1996)
- Frozen, dried and preserved are also permitted from various countries.



## Market access requests

Access requests received from:

- USA, China, Chile, Japan, Mexico & South Africa

BA is currently progressing USA

- Nectarines, peaches & plums from California, Washington, Oregon & Idaho
- First requested in 1994 and again in 2002
- Commenced 6 March 2006.





## Risk Analysis

What is it?

- a process to identify and classify potential quarantine pests and develop policies to manage them
- includes risk assessment and consultation.



## The Risk Assessment Process

- formal request for access
- provision of technical information from the exporting country (e.g. pests, controls, production methods)
- decision on IRA or alternative process.



## Choosing the right approach

Two main options:

- A Full Import Risk Analysis (IRA) - for a new commodity not previously imported
- A Review of Policy - for a commodity already imported but from country/area with similar pest status.

**BOTH HAVE THE SAME SCIENTIFIC RIGOUR**



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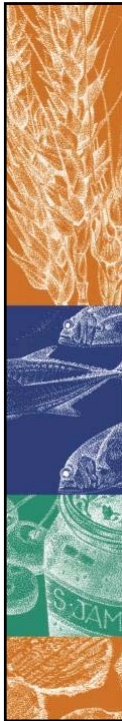


## Australia already imports stone fruit

- cherries from the United States of America
- apricots, cherries, nectarines, peaches & plums from New Zealand
- Biosecurity Australia has almost finalised a review of policy for New Zealand stone fruit into Western Australia.



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## The preliminary review of pests and diseases in the USA - what did it highlight?

- An overlap of pests of quarantine concern with other risk assessments
- The pests most likely to be considered of quarantine concern have been previously assessed (cherries from USA, stone fruit from New Zealand)



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## Some pests of quarantine concern

- Oriental fruit moth (WA only)
- Codling moth (WA only)
- Scales
- Leaf rollers
- Mites
- Fruit flies (*Rhagoletis* spp.)



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## Pathogens

- Preliminary study reveals that sharka (plum pox virus) is not present in the areas of production in the USA (California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington)
- A large number of pathogens have already been considered in previous risk assessments.



## Which approach?

- The science indicated that the risk assessment for the importation of stone fruit from the USA (California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington) can be undertaken as review of policy.



## Where to from here?

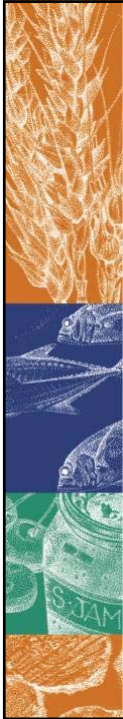
- Comprehensive review of pests and diseases associated with stone fruit in USA.
- Determine quarantine pests
- Assess suitability of existing conditions
- Preparation of the draft document
- Stakeholder consultation period
- Final document



## Consultation

- Regular consultation with the Consultative Committee and prior to the release of any documents
- Consultation with technical experts as required
- Release of draft document(s) to registered stakeholders for comment
  - Consultation period usually 30 days but may be varied.





## Questions?

[www.daff.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia](http://www.daff.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia)



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