



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

---

Andrew Metcalfe AO  
SECRETARY

Ref: EXEC2013-01801

12 July 2013

Senator the Hon. Bill Heffernan  
Chair  
Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Heffernan

In my letter to you of 17 June 2013, I advised that officers from my department had agreed to a meeting with Mr Chris Peace of Risk Management Limited to discuss his review of the department's import risk assessment methods.

I can now inform the committee that the meeting took place as planned on 3 July 2013. Also present at the meeting was Professor Mark Burgman from the Centre for Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis (CEBRA), formerly known as the Australian Centre for Excellence in Risk Analysis (ACERA). As I stated in my letter of 22 May 2013, ACERA have provided guidance to the department on risk assessment matters over a number of years.

I have been advised that the meeting was a constructive exchange of views on biosecurity risk assessment, the importance of effective risk communication, and of risk assessment more broadly.

If you believe it would be of assistance to the committee, officers from the department are available to provide a private briefing on the meeting and further detail on Mr Peace's recommendations as relevant to biosecurity risk assessments.

Yours sincerely

(Andrew Metcalfe)