

Horticulture Taskforce

Chair Judith Damiani | CEO, Citrus Australia
Deputy Chair Richard Mulcahy | CEO, AUSVEG
Treasurer Greg Seymour | General Manager, Australian Mushroom Growers Association

Committee Secretary
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
via email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

23 January 2013

Dear Secretary,

RE: Inquiry into the *Biosecurity Bill 2012* and the *Inspector-General of Biosecurity Bill 2012*

Thank you for the opportunity for the Horticulture Taskforce to make a submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee (“the Committee”) inquiry into the *Biosecurity Bill 2012* and the *Inspector-General of Biosecurity Bill 2012*. The Horticulture Taskforce (“the Taskforce”) is a coalition of peak industry bodies across Australia’s horticulture industry. Established in 2010, the Taskforce represents the interests of the horticulture sector, which is one of the fastest growing areas of agriculture in Australia and is vital to the economic, health and social wellbeing of Australia. The Taskforce currently comprises 17 members (see attached list), who represent individual growers/producers across Australia.

An effective biosecurity framework is essential to the long-term health and well-being of Australian horticulture. We welcome the initiative to reform Australia’s biosecurity system and deliver broad-based yet simple legislative provisions that ensure biosecurity risks are managed efficiently, effectively and at minimum cost. In particular, the Taskforce welcomes the opportunity for consultation afforded to industry through this inquiry. A number of individual members of the Taskforce have directly made submissions to the present inquiry, including:

- Cherry Growers Australia;
- AUSVEG;
- Australian Banana Growers’ Council;
- Growcom; and
- Apple and Pear Australia Limited (APAL).

The Horticulture Taskforce endorses these submissions on behalf of its members and broadly supports the views put forward. The Taskforce and its members welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and their members throughout this important inquiry process. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours Sincerely,

Judith Damiani
Chair
Horticulture Taskforce

Enc. List of the Horticulture Taskforce membership

Horticulture **Taskforce**

Horticulture Taskforce Members:

The Horticulture Taskforce is a coalition of the following peak horticulture industry associations:

Citrus Australia

AUSVEG

Australian Mushroom Growers Association

Australian Banana Growers Council

Apple and Pear Australia

Australian Mango Industry Association

Onions Australia

Summerfruit Australia

Nursery and Garden Industry Australia

Raspberries and Blackberries Australia (formally the Australian Rubus Growers Association)

Cherry Growers Association

Biological Farmers Association

Passionfruit Australia

Strawberries Australia

Avocadoes Australia

Growcom

Australian Nut Industry Council