



Australian Government
Department of the Environment and Energy

Mr Robert McCormack

Dear Mr McCormack

Thank you for your letter of 16 January 2017 to the Minister for the Environment and Energy, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP, concerning dwarf Mexican crayfish being sold in Australia. The Minister has passed your letter to me for reply.

Staff from the Department have spoken to your colleague, Mr Stephen Chara on this issue, outlining the legislation that applies to dwarf Mexican crayfish. I confirm that the species is not on the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) list of specimens taken to be suitable for live import and, as a result, these crayfish are not eligible to be imported live into Australia.

Following an assessment of the allegations concerning dwarf Mexican crayfish, the matter has been referred to the Department's Investigation and Intelligence Section for an investigation to be conducted. This approach is consistent with the Department's compliance and enforcement policy, as well as the fraud control protocols and due process under the Commonwealth Fraud Control Guidelines 2011. As the matter is under investigation it is inappropriate to comment on the specifics of the case.

We would welcome any further information you are able to provide that might assist the investigation. Any information provided would be treated in-confidence.

Yours sincerely

Paul Murphy
Assistant Secretary
Wildlife Trade and Biosecurity Section
17 February 2017