Appendix 2

Literature and correspondence indicate that plants and fruits are systemically infected by Dickeya sp. Thus removal of vegetative parts (crowns and bracts) does not lessen the degree of infection nor does it render the fruits to become uninfected as you so imply.

The risk rating developed by Biosecurity Australia does not clearly state how rankings were determined. The nomenclature of ranking probability of likelihoods is heavily skewed and biased towards the low probability.

In Hawaii systems to prevent importation of potentially dangerous pathogens failed because officials failed to heed the advice of the scientific community and succumbed to political pressure to allow the importation of planting material from Costa Rica, Honduras, and Philippines. Quarantine measures were in place with visual inspections, but consequently latent infections were missed and the disease became established. There are no control measures for Dickeya sp. and soil contaminated by Dickey sp. will remain so for many years. In Hawaii the yearly losses from Dickeya sp. range from 5% to 40%, depending on the weather.

Genomic research studies were complete and a paper is currently under review for publication. It was determined that the Dickeya strain isolated in Hawaii from infected plants, came from Costa Rica, Honduras and Philippines in which all has genomic similarities to Malaysia's strain.

Research has recovered Dickeya sp. from irrigation water, ornamental plants and corn. However genomic determination has not been made. Many investigative researches were terminated due to lack of funding. Areas in need of research include; latency issues, alternate hosts, insect vectors, mode of transmission, varietals resistance, post harvest survival rate, rapid detection systems, virulence between strains, etc.

Should Malaysia be prohibited from exporting pineapple to Australia, then all other countries should be prohibited also until such time a survey and detection program can be implemented and more information is obtained about the etiology of Dickey sp.