



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

ACTING SECRETARY

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

Dear Senator Heffernan

The purpose of this letter is to advise you that I have now considered the risk analysis report for the importation of fresh ginger from Fiji and I have advised my staff by making a policy determination that the biosecurity measures contained in the report, or their equivalent, may be taken into account in consideration of granting import permits.

The department will now commence engagement with the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji to develop a work plan taking account of the measures in the report. This is expected to take some months and will require Fiji to demonstrate (through an audit) that its phytosanitary system complies with Australia's import requirements.

Once these steps are completed, and the department is assured that the phytosanitary requirements are met, the department will be able to consider granting permits, in the event import permits are sought.

Yours sincerely

Phil Glyde

18 January 2013