

**Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport  
Legislation Committee**

**SUBMISSION COVER SHEET**

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**Inquiry Title:** Import Risk Analysis for Apples

**Submission No:** 10

**Date Received:** 23 April 2004

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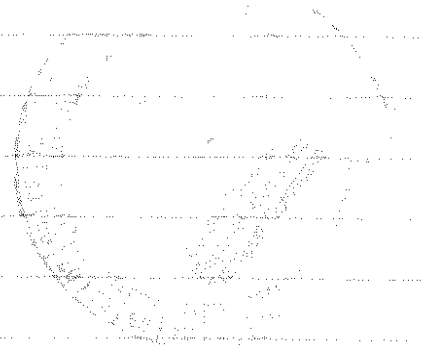
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**Date Authorised:**

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20th April '04

The Secretary,  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs  
and Transport Legislation Committee  
Suite 56 62  
Parliament House  
Canberra A.C.T. 2600



Submission Re Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis For Apples

1. Thank you for your invitation to make a submission regarding the revised IRA report. I would like to record my concern at its inadequacy in the following general terms.
2. Many serious issues relating to the risks of importing New Zealand apples, which could be fire blight affected were raised by stakeholders following the initial report. It seems that these genuine scientific questions have not been properly addressed, with Biosecurity Australia now favouring apple imports.
3. The proposed import protocols, namely visual inspection of source NZ orchards, chlorine dipping and six week cold storage are all weak and the Australian industry could not be confident

of their effectiveness. The introduction of fire blight with this regime would be inevitable, just a matter of time.

4. The reality is that satisfactory treatments for fire blight affected apples are just not available at this stage. That is a reason for not importing apples and safeguarding Australia's domestic industry infrastructure. It is hardly a reason to erect a facade to facilitate free trade. If satisfactory treatment ever became available it would be reasonable to review the position then.

5. The import protocols proposed by Biosecurity Australia do not represent biosecurity but insecurity, which I suggest is already being felt in Australian apple and pear growing industries, as well as associated industries.

Yours faithfully,  
B. A. Trueman, B. Agr. Sc.