

----- Original Message -----

From: P Savio & Co Pty Ltd

To: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

Sent: Monday, June 21, 2004 4:59 PM

Subject: Devastation of the apple industry

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The Secretariat,
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee
Room S G 62,
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

We are writing to lodge a response to the IRA on New Zealand apples. We are apple growers from Stanthorpe in the Granite Belt, Queensland.

We believe that the risks of importing apples from New Zealand are still too great despite the suggested mitigation measures [protocols]

The visual inspection of orchards is given as risk mitigation factor when it is clear that visual inspections will not detect small fire blight cankers or small European canker lesions.

The RDIRA does not take a consistently conservative line.

The risk assessment is based on the risk only over one year despite the fact that the RDIRA specifically states that risk will increase over time.

We believe that the the IRA has flaws, and if NZ apples are allowed in, this will devastate our industry, our livelihood, and a lifetime of hard work, and the future of our children. We have paid taxes all our life to a Government that does not care about our apple industry, or else they would think of imported apples as they think of foot and mouth disease.

Yours truly,

Rosie Savio
P Savio & Co Pty Ltd