



Australian Banana Growers' Council Inc

**Submission to Senate Rural and Regional
Affairs and Transport Committee in relation to
inquiry into import risk analysis for bananas
from the Philippines**

Addendum

May 2004

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1 REASON FOR ADDENDUM

The Council has released this addendum to correct and clarify a number of issues raised in its submission to the Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee inquiry into the import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines.

2 CORRECTION

On page 3, the reference to “2,320” banana growers” should be “2,000”.

On page 10, the reference to “November 2003” should be “August 2003”.

On page 19, the reference to “page 210 to 212” should be “page 120”.

On page 4, the second paragraph under the heading ‘No Records of IRA Team Meetings’ should have referred to records of two meetings being placed on the public file: the meeting which occurred on 10 and 11 April 2002 and a meeting which occurred on 10 and 11 September 2003.

3 CLARIFICATION

3.1 Highest-Likely Incidence

The Council’s submission (at page 10) states:

“Indeed, in the Second Report (at page 148), the IRA Team specifically notes that the incidence relied upon is not the highest-likely incidence but relies upon that data in any event.”

The Second Report (at page 148) includes the following footnote:

“³⁶ This assumption is not necessarily the worst-case scenario, because the weekly incidence would be expected to show more extreme variation than the monthly summaries indicate, but weekly data were not available to assess this variation.”

The “highest-likely incidence” of a pest should be used in import risk assessment because it reflects the “worst-case scenario” for the pest.

Where the Council’s submission (at page 10) states that the “IRA Team specifically notes that the incidence relied upon is not the highest-likely incidence” it is referring to the above footnote in the Second Report (at page 148).

3.2 Computer Modelling

The Council’s submission makes numerous references to the “modelling” undertaken by the Council and Biosecurity Australia.

Where the Council refers to “modelling”, it is referring to computer simulation-based modelling using computer software called ‘@RISK’.

The computer simulation-based model calculates the likelihood of the entry, establishment and spread of a pest based on the data inputted in the model, and based on that calculation, calculates the overall risk of the entry, establishment and spread of the pest.

In September 2001, Biosecurity Australia's published a document entitled '*Guidelines for Import Risk Analysis*' which outlines the general methodology adopted by Biosecurity Australia for computer simulation-based modelling. The Council has followed the same general methodology as Biosecurity Australia for its computer simulation-based modelling.

3.3 Expected Time for Entry, Establishment and Spread

The Council's submission (at page 13) provides the following analysis:

- the time it is expected to take for Moko to enter, establish and spread in Australia following imports of Philippine bananas; and
- the chance (i.e., the likelihood) that Moko will enter, establish and spread in Australia within 10 years after the importation of Philippines bananas occurring.

The Council's submission provides the same analysis for some of the other pests considered in the Second Report.

As a general principle, the chance of a pest entering, establishing and spreading in Australia increases with the number of years of trade. For example, the chance of a pest entering, establishing and spreading in Australia will be much greater following 10 years of imports than following only one year of imports.

The computer modelling undertaken by Biosecurity Australia and the Council allows the chance of a pest entering, establishing and spreading in Australia to be calculated based on different periods of imports of Philippine bananas.

The first analysis reports the number of years of imports of Philippine bananas at which the chance of the pest entering, establishing and spreading becomes greater than 50%. It is the earliest time at which the chance of a pest entering, and then subsequently establishing and spreading in Australia becomes more likely than not.

However, because there is not a 100% chance of the pest entering, and then subsequently establishing and spreading within the expected time, it may take longer than the expected time for the pest to enter, establish and spread in Australia.

For this reason, the Council has included the second analysis. The second analysis provides the chance of the pest entering within 10 years after the importation of Philippines bananas occurring, and then subsequently establishing and spreading.

In the case of Moko:

- the expected time of Moko entering (and subsequently establishing and spreading in Australia) following imports of Philippine bananas is 2 years; and
- the chance of Moko entering (and subsequently establishing and spreading in Australia) in Australia within 10 years after the importation of Philippine bananas commencing is 99%.

That data shows that the earliest time at which Moko is more likely than not to enter, and subsequently establish and spread in Australia is 2 years. It also shows that even if Moko doesn't enter, and subsequently establishing and spreading in 2 years, there is a 99% chance of it doing so following 10 years of importation of Philippine bananas.