



# *Capsicum* spp. fruit from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu **Biosecurity**

July 2018



## Key facts

- The department will be conducting a risk analysis for fresh *Capsicum* spp. fruit (chillies, capsicums and peppers) from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.
- The department will announce the commencement of this risk analysis before the end of 2018.
- A draft report will then be prepared for public consultation.
- A final report will be published after consideration of comments on the draft report.

## Risk analysis for *Capsicum* spp. fruit

The department intends to commence a risk analysis for fresh *Capsicum* spp. fruit from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.

Reinstatement of market access for fresh *Capsicum* spp. fruit has been a priority for a number of Pacific Island countries since trade was suspended in 1997. Trade of *Capsicum* spp. fruit from Pacific Island countries was suspended following the withdrawal of ethylene dibromide as a permitted fumigant for the phytosanitary treatment of fresh produce for human consumption.

As a World Trade Organization member, Australia is required to assess market access proposals and develop the least trade restrictive and scientifically justified import conditions. The same scientific principles are used by our trading partners when assessing Australian goods.

Australia currently permits imports of fresh *Capsicum* spp. fruit from New Zealand and the Republic of Korea, provided they meet Australia's biosecurity import requirements.

## Process for a risk analysis

The objective of undertaking a risk analysis is to ensure that any fresh products imported into Australia are free from unwanted pests and diseases. The department initially identifies pests and diseases associated with fruit or vegetables produced for export in the source country that are not present in Australia. This will determine the type of process that will be undertaken (a non-regulated or regulated risk analysis). The [Biosecurity Import Risk Analysis guidelines](#) provides further information about the types of process.

Regardless of the type of process undertaken, the risk analysis will assess pests of biosecurity concern and recommend risk management measures, if they are required. If there are no available risk management measures to effectively manage the biosecurity risks of the pests of biosecurity concern, trade is not permitted until suitable measures are identified.

The department will verify commercial production, packing, and export practices in the source country before determining any phytosanitary risk management measures that are to be applied to mitigate any potential biosecurity risks that do not achieve Australia's appropriate level of protection.

## How stakeholders can contribute

Stakeholders are invited to comment on the draft report during the public consultation period. The final report will then be published after consideration of stakeholder comments. This will complete the scientific risk analysis process.

## Australia-Pacific Island trade

Boosting agricultural trade from and between Pacific Island countries has been identified by successive Australian governments as a priority to assist economic trade development in the region.

This risk analysis is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's [Pacific Horticultural and Agricultural Market Access \(PHAMA\) program](#). PHAMA is a trade facilitation program that assists Pacific Island countries to achieve increased market access for agricultural and horticultural products.

## *Capsicum* spp. fruit production in Australia

Capsicums and chillies are grown across most states in Australia, with the majority being grown in Queensland. Capsicums and chillies are grown year round in Australia.


In 2016-17:

- 73,488 tonnes of capsicums were produced in Australia, of which approximately 346 tonnes were exported.
- 2,213 tonnes of chillies were produced in Australia, of which approximately 3 tonnes were exported.

Australia's main export markets for fresh *Capsicum* spp. fruit include New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Fiji and Brunei.

## Subscribe for updates

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