



SECRETARY

REF: EXEC2012-06256

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

Thank you for your letter of 7 September 2012 advising me of the committee's work in the inquiry into the *Effect on Australian pineapple growers of importing fresh pineapple from Malaysia*. In that letter you asked me to advise the committee as soon as possible whether or not I will delay a decision until after the committee has tabled its report on 10 October 2012.

I note that the risk analysis process has been completed and my Department is now developing its processes to be ready to manage the proposed trade. At that stage import conditions will be settled. These processes include development of administrative and compliance practices and will take some weeks to prepare. On this basis, I do not expect to settle on import conditions until after the 10 October 2012.

Yours sincerely

Conall O'Connell

// September 2012

cc Senator the Hon. Joe Ludwig
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry