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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Email: rrat.sen@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the effect on Australian ginger growers of importing fresh ginger from Fiji

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Inquiry into the effect on Australian ginger growers of importing fresh ginger from Fiji.

The Sunshine Coast Council is working towards diversifying the Sunshine Coast's economy, including rural business. An important component of the rural sector is our iconic ginger industry which produces more than 6000 tonnes annually, an amount which equates to approximately 80% of Australia's total ginger crop.

Given the importance of this industry to our local economy, I share the concerns of our farmers about the risks and consequences associated with the importation of fresh ginger from Fiji, including the potential introduction of the pathogen *Radopholus similis*.

The Sunshine Coast Council works in partnership with the community and relevant government agencies to help manage specific pest plants and animals. However, it is important that we reduce any potential for the introduction of new pest species that may have a significant impact on our region and in particular the Sunshine Coast ginger industry.

If you would like any further information relating to this submission please contact my office

Yours sincerely

Cr Mark Jamieson
MAYOR