



11 August 2014

Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

## **INQUIRY INTO ENVIRONMENTAL BIOSECURITY**

Dear Secretariat

Thank you for the invitation to provide feedback on the adequacy of arrangements to prevent the entry and establishment of invasive species likely to harm Australia's natural environment.

eBay is a global online marketplace with more than 145 million active users which brings together buyers and sellers who trade on their own terms. As an online marketplace provider eBay does sell items itself.

eBay is an enabler of small Australian businesses, with 1 in 5 small businesses enjoying a presence on the eBay platform.

eBay takes an educative approach to biosecurity within the marketplace. eBay has a [plants and seeds policy](#) which was developed in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, and incorporating warnings<sup>1</sup> which are presented to eBay users looking for products within related categories and in response to search keywords related to plants and seeds.

eBay cooperates with government agencies and regulators to remove listings consistent with our policy.

eBay commends the Government's continued focus on education and awareness raising of prohibited items through prominent signage at international airports, videos on commercial aircraft flying into Australia, the Border Security television program and of course through the Department of Agriculture and Customs and Border Protection websites.

eBay also supports the Government's investment in technological solutions to identify prohibited items such as the Customs x-ray machines deployed at international airports. We expect to see more innovation in detection technologies over the coming years.

International cooperation and collaboration on restricting the movement of prohibited goods internationally remains an important element not only of Australia's strategy for border

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<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A.



protection but also to foster a global community of countries with a shared interest in managing high priority environmental risks.

Yours sincerely

**Sassoon Grigorian**  
**Director of Public Policy, Asia Pacific**



## **Appendix A**

### **▶ Attention: Government regulations may apply**

Make sure your listing complies with Australian law – visit the [Plant and Seeds policy](#) before listing your item.

Certain plants or plant pests are targeted for control because they have, or could transmit, serious economic, environmental or social impacts for Australia. All Australian states and territories have pest management legislation to prevent the introduction or establishment of these plants or plant pests into new areas. Before listing a plant on eBay.com.au, please make sure you comply with your legal obligations.

### **▶ Attention: Australian biosecurity requirements may apply**

Before buying an item from overseas, you should ensure that any applicable biosecurity requirements are met. As the buyer, you are held responsible for doing this. If you are unsure about your purchase, visit the [Department of Agriculture](#) website for advice. The department screens international mail and will seize any items that present a biosecurity risk.