



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

In response to a request from you, I wrote to you on 11 September 2012 indicating that I did not expect to settle on import conditions for the importation of fresh pineapple fruit from Malaysia until after 10 October 2012. In my letter I noted that the risk analysis was completed and that the Department was developing processes to manage the proposed trade. The Department has advanced this work, and I have now considered the risk analysis report. I have advised my staff that the measures contained in the report, or their equivalent may be taken into account in consideration of granting import permits.

The department will now commence engagement with the Department of Agriculture in Malaysia, to develop a work plan taking account of the measures in the report. This is expected to take some months and will require Malaysia to demonstrate (through an audit) that its phytosanitary system complies with Australia's import requirements.

Once these steps are completed, and the department is assured that the phytosanitary requirements are met, the department will be able to consider granting of permits, in the event that import permits are sought.

Yours sincerely

Conall O'Connell

14 December 2012