



THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP
MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

Mr Robert McCormack
Secretary

20 DEC 2016

Dear Mr McCormack

I refer to your letter and email concerning exotic dwarf Mexican crayfish being sold in Australia.

I confirm that under *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, only species listed on the 'List of Specimens taken to be Suitable for Live Import' (Live Import List) can be imported into Australia. As the dwarf Mexican crayfish (genus *Cambarellus*) are not on the Live Import List, they are not eligible for live import.

Dwarf Mexican crayfish are found and traded within Australia. State and territory government regulate domestic trade and possession of live exotic specimens under their laws.

I have been advised that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources investigated whether crayfish species were being imported into Australia and whether the fungus *Aphanomyces astaci* (causing 'crayfish plague') was known in Australia. The investigation concluded that crayfish species were not being imported illegally and there was no evidence of the 'crayfish plague' in Australia.

If you suspect crayfish specimens are being illegally imported into Australia or someone is in possession of illegally imported specimens (including progeny), the Department would appreciate receiving any information you can provide. Any supporting information can be provided by emailing the Department at wildlifetrade compliance@environment.gov.au. All reports are treated with the highest confidentiality.

Thank you for writing on this matter.

Yours sincerely

JOSH FRYDENBERG