

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Budget Estimates Feb 2006

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question no:** BA 01

**Division/Agency:** Plant Biosecurity/Biosecurity Australia

**Topic:** Draft extension of policy for the importation of fresh mangoes from Taiwan

**Hansard page:** 69

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

**Ms van Meurs**—Yes, they do have a number of fruit flies that we do not have.

**CHAIR**—God help us. What else have you got? What other things have they got?

**Ms van Meurs**—Off the top of my head I can say they have mealy bugs, but I would have to take the others on notice.

**Answer:**

A number of arthropod pests and one disease of mango were considered in the 'Draft Extension of Policy for the Importation of Fresh Mangoes from Taiwan'. Please see **attached** table of potential quarantine pests (Attachment 1). The quarantine pests requiring management measures were assessed to be fruit flies and mealy bugs.

**[BA 01 attachment]**

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Additional Budget Estimates Feb 2006

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question no:** BA 02

**Division/Agency:** Plant Biosecurity/Biosecurity Australia

**Topic:** Draft extension of policy for the importation of fresh mangoes from Taiwan

**Hansard page:** 69

**Senator Heffernan asked:**

**CHAIR**—Are they any different from the mealy bugs that we are always worried about?

**Ms van Meurs**—Our view is that we can undertake inspection on arrival.

**Ms Hewitt**—Chair, could we send you perhaps a short note summarising the contents of the draft?

**CHAIR**—I think you had better. You had better do better than a note—you had better come and have a chat to us.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—Why don't you supply it to the committee, and we will put it in the Hansard?

**Ms Hewitt**—Indeed.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—It might not get out of his office if you send it to him.

**Ms van Meurs**—Again, the draft is actually up on the Biosecurity website.

**Ms Hewitt**—It is on the website, but we can provide a summary of it.

**Answer:**

The extension of policy report for the importation of fresh mangoes from Taiwan was based on import policy for mango fruit from the Philippines and the draft revised policy for mangoes from India.

A preliminary assessment by Biosecurity Australia of the pests potentially associated with mangoes from Taiwan indicated that the pests do not pose significantly different quarantine risks, or require significantly different management measures, than those for which policy has been developed.

In view of this, Biosecurity Australia advised stakeholders in October 2005 that the access request would be considered as an extension of existing import policy.

Both groups of pests identified as requiring management measures (fruit flies and mealy bugs) had previously been assessed in the Philippines import risk assessment. The individual pests in each group were either identical to, or similar, to those previously assessed.

The executive summary and introduction of the draft document is **attached** (Attachment 1). See also the pest list attached to the answer to BA01.

**[BA 02 attachment]**

**Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Budget Estimates Feb 2006

**Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

**Question no:** BA 03

**Division/Agency:** Plant Biosecurity/Biosecurity Australia

**Topic:** Draft extension of policy for the importation of fresh mangoes from Taiwan

**Hansard page:** 70

**Senator Hogg asked:**

**Senator HOGG**—In the case of the mangoes, how long ago was the policy determined?

**Ms van Meurs**—We will have to take that on notice.

**Senator HOGG**—Was it two years ago? Three years ago? Five? Ten?

**Ms van Meurs**—Anywhere between two years and five years. I would have to take that on notice.

**Senator HOGG**—Take it on notice. I was looking mainly for a ballpark figure. I wanted to see that we were not dealing with something that was totally out of date. Thank you.

**Answer:**

The policy for mangoes from the Philippines was determined in 1999.