

Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Budget Estimates May 2009

Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Question: BA01

Division/Agency: Biosecurity Australia

Topic: Chinese IRAs

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Nash asked:

What Import Risk Assessments IRAs on Chinese products are currently under way?
Are they close to being finalised?

Answer:

Biosecurity Australia (BA) has formally commenced import risk analyses (IRAs) under the regulated process, on the following products from China:

- *Fresh apple fruit* – is an expanded IRA, to be completed within 30 months of the announcement of its commencement in March 2008. The draft IRA report has been issued and stakeholder comments are currently being considered in preparation of the revised draft IRA report for review by the independent Eminent Scientists Group. A provisional final IRA will then be issued and is subject to appeal.
- *Fresh table grapes* – is a standard IRA, to be completed within 24 months of the announcement of its commencement in August 2008. BA is preparing the draft IRA report which will be issued for stakeholder consultation.