



**Press announcement
For Immediate Release**

Thursday, 8 July 2010

Stonefruit Industry Concerned at Quarantine Procedures'

Summerfruit Australia Limited Board has expressed serious concern of imports of horticultural product into Australia in the wake of Biosecurity Australia's (BA) recent decision on the importation of apples from China. It is apparent that no request was made by BA of the Chinese for conclusive research findings confirming apples are not a host for Spotted Winged Drosophila Suzukki.

The Board is alarmed at the impact that this recently identified pest would have on the stonefruit industry should it find its way into Australia. Spotted Winged Drosophila Suzukki has spread worldwide from Asia to Northern America and Europe within 18 months.

The stonefruit industry is particularly vulnerable to this pest and concern is warranted to the affect this pest will have if comprehensive scientific evidence of 'clean' imports is not made available to all similar host industries where production and product could be at risk.

Bilateral trade is welcome, however the desire for more liberal trading relationships should not come as a result of reducing scientific research required to ensure protocols are developed. All protective quarantine measures must be thoroughly verified for the protection of home grown industries. All Australian producers, whatever their product should not have to contend with any new introduced pests or diseases.

Ian McAlister,

Chair Summerfruit Australia Limited.

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