

18/11/25

The Hon Tony Perrett MP
Minister for Primary Industries

DELIVERING
FOR QUEENSLAND



Queensland
Government

Our ref: CTS 20350/25

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25 SEP 2025

The Honourable Julie Collins MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
minister.collins@aff.gov.au

Dear Minister

Julie,

I refer to your announcement last week regarding the review of quarantine arrangements to allow the importation of bananas.

I want to highlight the serious biosecurity risk which would occur from changes to current measures, including the potentially significant risk to Queensland's banana industry and our biosecurity systems more broadly. I cannot overstate the huge and unacceptable threat any change would create.

Strong biosecurity measures are the linchpin to ensuring the productivity success of Queensland's agriculture.

The impact of exotic pests and disease through contaminated produce on Queensland's \$550 million banana industry would be devastating. It would not only impact the banana industry it would extend into regional communities and ecosystems which support the industry.

This review is causing significant concern with growers, industry stakeholders, and in the communities which support them, in my state of Queensland.

No other industry has more awareness associated with the cost of managing, eradicating, and containing new exotic plant pest disease incursions in the past 20 years. With 95 per cent of national banana production in Queensland, our industry's freedom from these diseases has been a costly and hard-won outcome.

There have already been immense costs and disruption to business to deal effectively, efficiently, and rapidly with incursions of black Sigatoka disease, banana freckle disease, and Panama TR4 disease. The experience of industry is a timely and relevant reminder of the cost to prevent the introduction of these risks in the first place.

Of current concern are black Sigatoka and Moko disease.

Either of these would have significant financial impacts on the cost of banana production from increased chemical applications to control the disease, as well as to the Australian consumer from potentially decreased supply.

Furthermore, the potential for damages is not limited to banana growers. What is often overlooked through importing contaminated fresh products from overseas is the additional pest and disease threat it poses to other industries.

These are serious issues and I look forward to your reasonable consideration of the impact from any changes to importation obligations.

My department will continue to work closely with the Federal Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry as part of the process. I would welcome you to visit, with me, a banana grower in North Queensland to hear these concerns first hand.

If your office requires further information, or would like to arrange a visit, please contact Mr Matt Jensen in my office on 07 3719 7530.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Perrett', written in a cursive style.

TONY PERRETT MP
Minister for Primary Industries
Member for Gympie

Queensland Legislative Assembly

Number: 5825T1798

 18 NOV 2025

MP: Hon Bennett

Clerk's Signature: [Signature]

Tabled ☒

By Leave ☐