



Mr Jason Lange
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Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet
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Dear ~~Mr Lange~~ *Jason*

Regulation Impact Statement – Opportunities for harmonised and streamlined plant export regulation – Second Pass Final Assessment

I am writing in relation to the attached Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) prepared for prepared for *Opportunities for harmonised and streamlined plant export regulation*.

I am satisfied that the RIS addresses the concerns raised in your letter of 11 August 2020. Specifically, by:

- expanding and clarifying the impact of the increasing complexity of exports on Australian exporters and businesses.
- moving the glossary of terms to the beginning of the RIS for greater clarity.
- clarifying what was meant by risk-based processes in the context of exploring opportunities for harmonised and streamlined plant export regulation.
- clarifying what the implications of a rigid regulatory framework is for Australian plant export businesses.
- clarifying the sentences and statements in section 2.2 as identified in your letter.

This RIS predominantly involved a consideration and analysis of two options, to:

- do nothing and make no changes to regulatory framework or export processes; or
- improve the regulatory framework in an evolutionary way, consistent with government policy.

Where applicable, additional options were analysed. Due to the Australia's international obligations to the International Plant Protection Convention, a third option – which would involve a complete deregulation of plant and plant products exports – has not been explored as it is not a viable option.

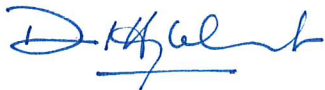
When the regulatory impact and benefits of the different options are taken in combination, the components of the proposal that represent the best options to address the range of regulatory gaps and export process inefficiencies in the long term include:

1. delivering enhanced processes to support plant and plant product exporters through IT system development;
2. implementing third party auditing arrangements where industry participants are already subject additional regulatory controls, or retail or commercial industry arrangements;
3. exploring and adopting the use of real-time monitoring and reporting technologies; and
4. exploring and implementing opportunities for harmonised and streamlined regulatory arrangements.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS is now consistent with the six principles for Australian Government policy makers as specified in the *Australian Government Guide to Regulatory Impact Analysis*.

I submit the RIS to the Office of Best Practice Regulation for formal final assessment.

Yours sincerely



David Hazlehurst
Deputy Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
17 August 2020