

# Your Levy At Work



**Greenlife**  
INDUSTRY AUSTRALIA

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## **Plans to import overseas bananas could expose Australia, industry experts warn**

Proposed importation of overseas bananas undermine Australian banana production and industry resilience, risking more than horticultural biosecurity.

Director of R&D and Biosecurity at Greenlife Industry Australia (GIA), John McDonald, said that banana imports from countries such as the Philippines open Australia unduly to significant risks.

“It only takes one infected shipment to undo decades of biosecurity work,” he said.

“Potential pests and disease don’t just threaten banana production, but greenlife production across various commodities including hemp, heliconia and species of Alpinia.”

Australia remains one the few banana-producing regions currently free from Moko Disease, Black Sigatoka, Bract Mosaic Virus and the Banana Skipper Butterfly, the introduction of which could devastate local banana industry.

Since February more than 13 new incursions have been recorded nationally, with some infestations linked to non-plant imports, such as ships, planes, tourists, and shipping containers.

“Trade, travel, and tourism remain one of the leading causes of incursions in Australia. The biosecurity protocols surrounding imported goods cannot guarantee the safety of our onshore green production,” Mr McDonald said.

“Producers are already responding to several threats in their production nurseries and plantations. We cannot expect them to take on the management of introduced pests that could’ve been avoided.

“We have a strong banana industry supported by highly professional banana production nurseries generating thousands of jobs across regional areas of QLD, NSW, WA and NT.

“Beyond the threat to local biodiversity and biosecurity, we have to consider the livelihood of our local producers.”

GIA represents the nursery sector under the national Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed and urges further industry consultation before importation is considered.

Industry leaders say any move toward importation must be weighed against the potential cost to regional jobs, food security and Australia’s hard-won pest-free status.

**ENDS**

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## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

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