



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

**Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Federal Member for Maranoa**

Ref: MC18-034270

Ms Cherri Buffett
Norfolk Island Chamber of Commerce Inc.

27 NOV 2018

Via email: norfolkisland.coc@gmail.com

Dear Ms Buffett

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 September 2018 regarding the *Biosecurity Legislation (Prohibited and Conditionally Non-prohibited Goods) Amendment (Hitchhiker Pests and Other Measures) Determination 2018* (the Determination). I apologise for the delay in replying.

Hitchhiker pests, such as the brown marmorated stink bug (BMSB), can severely impact our agricultural industries and need to be kept out of the country and Norfolk Island. The Determination was made to ensure that the biosecurity risks posed by these pests can be managed efficiently and effectively. The changes to the Determination included new import conditions on certain goods being brought or imported into Australian territories and also amendments to a number of definitions enabling documents to be incorporated as 'from time to time', instead of from a particular date.

As Norfolk Island does not currently receive trade directly from the listed BMSB countries, there is no impact on the island, or its businesses, from these changes. The department's biosecurity officers on Norfolk Island work closely with stakeholders on the island involved in the import industry and engage with these parties in the event of changes to the biosecurity management of cargo and shipping operations.

To assist industries on the mainland in complying with the changes, the department consulted with parties via holding industry information sessions, providing media releases and publishing a number of Industry Advice Notices.

More information about the Determination, including updates, can be found at agriculture.gov.au/bmsb. You can keep up to date on Import Industry Advice Notices by subscribing at agriculture.gov.au/import/industry-advice.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Yours sincerely

DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP