



Apple & Pear Australia Ltd.

What actions can you take?

APAL is urging growers and their families, their staff, their communities and other people associated with the apple and pear industry to contact their local parliamentary members at the federal and state levels and even local government representatives to inform them of the dangers that exist without proper biosecurity measures being implemented in the event of New Zealand apple imports.

Arranging a face to face meeting with your local representatives is going to be the most effective way to deliver your messages of concern.

The next best thing would be to have a phone conversation with your local representative.

If either of those options is not possible, please contact your local members via letter or email. Please personalise it with information about your operation, your family history on your orchard, the impact you feel an imported disease outbreak would have on your local community etc.

We have outlined some of the key points we feel are important to get across below.

APAL has arranged meetings with politicians in Canberra but the more they hear messages from their constituents, the more notice they will take of what we have to say to them in Canberra.

The most important thing to remember is to use your own words and to talk about what it will mean for your business, your family and your community.



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Key points to consider for your letter, email or conversations:

- I am greatly concerned that a decision by Biosecurity Australia to accept New Zealand standard orchard practices as a quarantine standard is sufficient to protect the Australian industry from major exotic pests and diseases.
- New Zealand has a damaging bacterial disease call fire blight and if that established in Australia, we would lose our pear industry and greatly reduce the productivity of the apple industry.
- This would impact not just on apple and pear growing families, but on the communities in which we live.
- In Australia, more than 4,500 people are directly employed on orchards in addition to the family members.
- Add to that a large number of casual staff who are employed for picking and pruning and you can see the importance of the industry to the local economy and community.
- I strongly believe that stringent measures additional to the New Zealand standard orchard practices are needed to guarantee their exotic pests and diseases do not contaminate this country.
- The measures that are needed, such as rejecting fruit from orchards with obvious outbreaks of fire blight or large infestations of apple leaf curling midge, are no more stringent than measures Australia has to meet when exporting to other countries around the world.
- Australia must maintain her own biosecurity standards and never outsource that function to New Zealand or any other foreign country.
- Australia's pest and disease free status is a national asset that must be rigorously protected by Australians for future Australians.

The most important thing to remember is to use your own words and to talk about what it will mean for your business, your family and your community.