

# Vietnamese Passionfruit Imports

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Vietnam has applied to export fresh passionfruit to Australia. What does this mean, and what are grower's options?

## A technical overview

- In August 2022, the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry announced the commencement of a risk analysis for fresh passionfruit from Vietnam. The risk analysis was initiated in response to a market access request from Vietnam.
- Since then, the department has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of the biosecurity risks and developed a draft report.
- They released the draft report on 13 July 2023 for a 60-calendar day public consultation period. During the consultation period, the department will be holding information sessions to discuss the report and answer questions from stakeholders.
- For further information, see the department's webpage: [www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/plant/passionfruit-from-vietnam](http://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/risk-analysis/plant/passionfruit-from-vietnam)
- The draft report proposes that the importation of commercially produced passionfruit to Australia from all commercial production areas of Vietnam can be permitted, subject to a range of biosecurity requirements.
- The draft report was issued on 13 July 2023 for a public consultation period, closing on 11 September 2023.
- Visit [bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass](http://bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass) to view the report and then [bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass-HYS](http://bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass-HYS) to **Have Your Say**

## As a grower you may be wondering why Vietnam is applying, why it is allowed, and if there is any way we can block the application?

Due to Free Trade Agreements, Australia is obliged to accept applications for market access from parties to the agreement and vice versa. Australia wants to export fruit to Vietnam and 'in return', Vietnam is seeking to export their fruit to Australia. Each commodity is assessed individually, and it is typical for Vietnam and Australia to both make applications to the other country at the same time. In this instance, Australia is seeking to export blueberries to Vietnam and Vietnam is seeking to export fresh passionfruit.

Growers can't argue that the Australian market is already well supplied, or fruit would disrupt the local industry. We can, however, review the Biosecurity Risk Assessment and advise of any risks to Biosecurity that we do not believe Vietnam can adequately control. If Vietnam can adequately control all biosecurity risks, then they will be granted the right to export fruit to Australia. This does not necessarily mean that they will export fruit. For example, if the cost of sending fruit and/or the cost of controlling biosecurity risks will result in fruit being more expensive than local fruit, it is unlikely that we will see much – if any – Vietnamese fruit on our shelves.

As an industry, the best way we can safeguard our fruit is to ensure we thoroughly review the Biosecurity Risk Assessment, supply quality fruit and ensure retailers stick to their promises to buy fruit from Australian growers first.

Passionfruit Australia is committed to ensuring that foreign fruit does not present a risk to our domestic production. We have maintained close ties with the Department of Agriculture, sought advice from an independent Trade Expert and will ensure that our marketing levies focus on the best passionfruit available – Fresh Aussie Passionfruit.

## Have Your Say!

It is critical that anyone who wants to provide feedback on this matter does so using the online mechanism at [bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass-HYS](http://bit.ly/PAI-Viet-Pass-HYS) before AEDT 4pm on 11 September 2023.