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Stakeholder Category: Producer association - Hills Orchard Improvement Group Inc

Comments: The IGAB refers to shared responsibility between government, industry and community and identifies public good, risk creators and risk beneficiaries as part of the system. However, the IGAB does not provide a mechanism for shared funding between the risk creators, risk beneficiaries and government representing the community. A legislated funding mechanism that apportions costs equitably between these groups should be established through the IGAB/COAG model. As producers in Western Australia, which is free of Queensland fruit fly and codling moth, the Hills Orchard Improvement Group sees the major biosecurity risk as interstate transport of fruit, with the logistics industry, wholesalers, agents and major supermarkets bringing thousands of tonnes of fruit from endemic pest regions into pest-free areas. Only those shipments inspected at the border are charged a fee for maintaining this biosecurity operation. It would be more equitable to charge a flat fee across the logistics chain to fund border inspections and eradication when incursions are found. Producers are charged a fee-for-service cost at a state level in Western Australia and levies at a national level. Equity requires a similar contribution from risk creators who profit from generating biosecurity risk.

As it could be argued a fee on interstate transport is unconstitutional under s. 51 (ii) of the Australian Constitution if it is levied differentially between the states the cost to risk creators should be legislated as a fee for service to support biosecurity measures on interstate trade, as allowed for in s. 51 (1).

See Constitution s. 51: The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to:

- (i) trade and commerce with other countries, and among the States;
- (ii) taxation; but so as not to discriminate between States or parts of States.

Is this submission confidential? No

Do you agree to be contacted about your submission: Yes