

Media Release



Date: Tuesday 16 June 2009

We are re-issuing this Media Release to solely clarify the "priority list" and the actual outcomes of the amended protocol. Please [click](#) here for Federal Agriculture Minister Tony Burke MP media release

Citrus Australia welcomes trade improvements to China

Citrus Australia Ltd, the national peak industry body representing citrus growers, today welcomed the signing of the improved China quarantine protocol.

Citrus Australia Chair Kevin Cock said that this represented a significant investment and partnership by both industry and government to address stringent conditions set out in the first protocol signed in 2005.

"The improvements and flexibility now agreed to by both countries signals a significant step forward in increasing citrus exports to one of the worlds fastest growing economies - China."

"Participating in Federal Agriculture Minister Burke's delegation to China in April certainly assisted the negotiation process" Mr. Cock said.

Citrus Australia has worked diligently with the Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to improve the quarantine conditions for trade. There is a list of agreed priority items between industry and government used in the official negotiations.

Citrus Australia CEO Judith Damiani stated that the major wins with the amended protocol include

- the acceptance of higher cold treatment (2.1°C for 21 days for fruit flies):
- access to all ports;
- access for additional citrus varieties e.g. tangelos, sweetie grapefruit and limes

"The amended protocol is a positive step forward, but there is more work to be done to support further improvements including alternate options/treatments for certain quarantine pests such as Fullers rose weevil and light brown apple moth as well as the eventual recognition of fruit fly area freedom in southern Australia" Ms Damiani said.

Citrus Australia has also worked with Horticulture Australia Ltd (HAL) in implementing a China market development program to ensure benefits are passed back to the grower. A committee of growers, packers and exporters meet regularly

to consider market updates, export forecast, trade issues, marketing issues and recommend exporter to packer prices for oranges and mandarins.

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Australia has recently escaped a technical recession and the strongest contributing sector to GDP growth was in fact, Agriculture.

Horticulture is the 3rd largest agricultural industry behind grains and meat but larger than dairy, wool or fish.

Australian horticultural exports have reversed a declining trend by posting a 12% growth in the 9 months end March 09.

Citrus represents the largest fresh fruit export valued at \$156 million in 2008. Citrus exports to China were valued at \$1.3 million. 2009 citrus exports are expected to increase in line with global demand, increased production and more favourable exchange rates.

Citrus Australia is pleased to announce a **Citrus Export Forum** to be held on **24 June 2009 in Berri, SA**

The keynote speaker is Tony Motion, Market Manager Australasia and North America with Zespri International. Participants will be asked to work on specific issues related to increasing export trade and industry profitability in order to develop an industry action plan.

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