

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **MURRAY VALLEY CITRUS BOARD**

**30 / 4 / 2009**

### **SEASONAL CITRUS FRUIT ACCESS TO JAPAN GRANTED**

The MVCB received some very welcome and long awaited news from the Australian Government through Biosecurity Australia today. They were informed that Australia's Agricultural Counsellor in Japan received official advice from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries that the Japanese Government has now recognised the Greater Sunraysia Fruit Fly Area as seasonally fruit fly free. Fresh citrus picked and packed in the Greater Sunraysia Area during the period 1 June to 31 December each year will be permitted to be exported to Japan without the requirement for cold disinfestation treatment against fruit flies.

Mr John Tesoriero, Chief Executive, MVCB said that this was great news for the growers and packers in this region.

'Today's announcement means that we can now send fruit sourced from our region into Japan, putting us on an equal footing with South Australia,' Mr Tesoriero stated.

'The pleasing decision will result in some significant savings back to growers as the current requirement of cold treatment against fruit flies for entry into Japan is a significant cost in the production chain. This will also mean better returns to producers who participate in the program,' Mr Tesoriero added.

'The seasonal window as stated is clear and a Japanese inspector is due to visit in late May to early June, 2009 to assess the situation further. Hopefully, today's announcement means that we can look forward to positive negotiations with Japan in

the future, leading to our long-term aim of full area freedom status being granted for the Greater Sunraysia region.

The process of arriving at this successful outcome as announced has been extensive in time, detail and people from across the industry, the Department of Primary Industries and community sectors.

However, the result is testimony to all that has gone into establishing the Greater Sunraysia Pest Free Area.

This includes the controls, supervision, publicity and promotion and the acceptance of the wider community in acknowledging the seriousness of any fruit fly outbreak to our economy and social well-being.

For these reasons, today's positive outcome is very much needed and thoroughly deserved,' Mr Tesoriero concluded.

“This is welcome news for packers and growers and vindicates the substantial financial and human resources that the Board has committed to achieving this outcome over the past three years” said Chairman Jan Denham

For further comment please contact Mr John Tesoriero, Chief Executive, MVCB  
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Ends.