



22 March 2019

Office of Drug Control
GPO Box 9848
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

RE: Submission for Kava Review by Australian Department of Health

1. Greetings from Biosecurity Authority of Fiji ("BAF"), the National Plant Protection Organisation for Fiji.
2. BAF had been invited to a consultative forum on Kava Stakeholders Briefing on 6th March 2019 by the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, Mr John Feakes, together with other industry stakeholders.
3. BAF kindly thanks the Australian Government for initiating this pilot programme to ease restrictions on the importation of Kava for personal use in Australia.
4. BAF is extremely glad and thankful to note the doubling of the allowance limit from 2kg to 4kg per travelling passenger of legal Australian age from Fiji.
5. The proposed increase in the personal allowance by 100% will allow the general travelling public from Fiji to Australia to take more kava for their and their communities personal usages.
6. Furthermore, BAF understands that the travelling public taking greater quantities of Kava to Australia may not in any way equate to increased Kava drinking by Australians and shall not contribute to health risks.
7. The increase in quantities allows travellers to take Kava to Australia for various social and religious functions and have readily available stock for their usage.
8. BAF requests that the evaluation of this pilot program be based on the statistics of imported quantities that will be collected at the port of entries.
9. The proposed 2-year pilot program is sufficient time for gauging the performances and trends, however, a midway review (1-year duration) will also reveal very interesting results and trends as well, that shall be positive for rapid full implementations of the programme thereafter.
10. In the Pacific Island countries, Kava drinking is a social event for all the people and it gives a sense of belonging when the males and females, including the old and the young, gather around a "grog bowl" to share their stories and experiences of various historical and factual events.
11. BAF appreciates the kindness and thoughtfulness of this proposed programme that shall be a strong relaxing motivator to our communities in the socializing arena.
12. BAF recommends further civil education and nationwide awareness to all Australian communities on the positive effects of moderate kava usages (health linkages) for greater acceptability in all states of Australia and amongst all its communities.

13. BAF kindly supports the proposal for increased personal allowances of Kava and anticipates, after the successful implementation of this pilot project, that the derived positive outcomes will lead towards commercial imports in Australia as well.
14. BAF presents its best compliments to the Australian Government and anticipates positive results on this subject for mutual benefits to both countries.
15. For any further queries do not hesitate to contact BAF's Chief Plant Protection Officer Mr. Nilesch Chand on nachand@baf.com.fj

Yours faithfully


Hillary Kumwenda
A/Chief Executive Officer
IPPC Focal Point

