



Speech by

Andrew Cripps

MEMBER FOR HINCHINBROOK

Hansard Wednesday, 27 October 2010

PAPAYA AUSTRALIA

Mr CRIPPS (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (11.56 am): The papaya industry in North and Central Queensland is very concerned about possible breaches of quarantine and the failure of Biosecurity Queensland and the Minister for Primary Industries to take any action to address this issue. On 3 June 2010, Papaya Australia, the peak body for the papaya industry, wrote to the minister regarding the alleged supply of papaya seedlings to Queensland.

The papaya ring spot virus is a serious threat to the industry. To date, it has been restricted to South-East Queensland. In March this year, Papaya Australia was contacted by a nursery that indicated that another nursery in New South Wales was supplying papaya seedlings to Mitre 10 stores in Queensland, including potentially stores outside the papaya ring spot virus quarantine area in South-East Queensland. This presented a serious threat to the industry outside South-East Queensland.

Papaya Australia contacted Biosecurity Queensland and raised these concerns. A letter from Papaya Australia to the minister dated 3 June indicates that BQ advised that it was already aware of the problem. BQ advised that it could do nothing about the problem because the seedlings were coming in from New South Wales. Papaya Australia responded that that was totally unsatisfactory. BQ then had the audacity to question how big a threat an outbreak of papaya ring spot virus would be to the industry outside South-East Queensland. Papaya Australia then asked BQ to make an effort to contact New South Wales authorities to investigate the matter. I table a letter of 3 June from Papaya Australia to the Minister for Primary Industries.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 3 June 2010, from Mr Gerard Kath, chairman of Papaya Australia, to the Hon. Tim Mulherin, Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland, relating to supply of papaya seedlings to Queensland [\[3442\]](#).

On 10 October 2010, Papaya Australia once again wrote to the minister about this issue, because more than four months after it had first advised the minister of this alleged breach of quarantine it had not received a response concerning this serious issue. This correspondence alleges a number of shocking failures on the part of BQ that need to be fully investigated immediately. I table the letter of 10 October from Papaya Australia to the Minister for Primary Industries. Papaya Australia is still waiting for a response.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 10 October 2010, from Mr Gerard Kath, chairman of Papaya Australia, to the Hon. Tim Mulherin, Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries and Rural and Regional Queensland, relating to papaya ring spot virus [\[3443\]](#).