

Ms Natasha Exel  
Inquiry Secretary  
Legislative Council  
Parliament House  
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Attention: Hon Rosemary Armitage MLC Member for Launceston  
Hon Ivan Dean MLC Member for Windemere  
Hon Kerry Finch MLC Member for Rosevears  
Hon Tania Rattray MLC Member for McIntyre  
Hon Josh Willie MLC Member for Elwick

My husband and I own and run the Blue Berry Barn café in Frankford. We have approximately 300 plants. Our berries are used in our cakes or sell fresh or frozen from the shop. We purchased our organic plants from Moondarra in Victoria in 1996. They had to be bare rooted and dirt free, whilst in quarantine for 3 weeks they were sprayed before being released. We were happy to go through this procedure as the clean and green status meant a lot to us personally.

It's hard to imagine how soul destroying it would have been for those people in the North of the State who had their plants removed by Bio Security because of 'rust', we would certainly expect removal of our plants if the 'rust' was found, we would not like to be the cause of so many other lives being affected. We felt placated that Bio Security had done their job and the 'rust' was supposedly eradicated.

Every time Bio Security have come to check our plants, it is feel relief when we get the all clear. Now we feel totally fooled by Bio Security, how on earth can they leave infected plants in situ when they should be removed? Apparently, there are different regulations for different growers.

Tasmania is still lucky enough to be isolated from the mainland and have a great chance to eradicate this disease. We have met so many growers whose livelihoods are on the line, thanks to this gross negligence. It is devastating.

Yours sincerely

Stuart J Morice and Deborah A. Morice  
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