

# Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment

## Supplementary Information Request 5 September 2018

### Government Administration Committee 'B' Sub-Committee

#### Inquiry into Blueberry Rust

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment makes the following submission to questions asked 5 September 2018 by the Government Administration Committee 'B' Sub-Committee Inquiry into Blueberry Rust.

1. **Provide the dates that Biosecurity Tasmania was present and took sample on the Sulphur Creek property in 2016 (prior to confirmation of blueberry rust on 10 August 2016).**

**Response:** Prior to the survey work undertaken on Wednesday 10 August 2016 at Costas Sulphur Creek property; survey work was undertaken on 18 and 19 November 2015. The 2015 survey was part of the suite of surveys conducted to restore Tasmania's area freedom status from the previous incursion.

2. **Provide the results of the sample taken from the Sulphur Creek property in 2016.**

Table 1 below shows the results of survey commencing 15 August 2016, with samples submitted for analysis 16 & 17 August 2016.

*Table 1: Blueberry Rust Results – Costas Sulphur Creek*

Sample	Block	BBR Result	Sample	Block	BBR Result
15901-CG-M001	3	negative	33	6	negative
2	3	positive	34	6	negative
3	3	positive	35	7	negative
4	3	negative	36	7	negative
5	1	positive	37	7	negative
6	1	positive	38	7	negative
7	1	positive	39	7	negative
8	1	positive	40	7	negative
9	1	positive	41	8	negative
10	1	negative	42	8	negative
11	2	negative	43	8	negative

Sample	Block	BBR Result	Sample	Block	BBR Result
12	2	positive	44	8	negative
13	2	negative	45	8	negative
14	2	negative	46	8	negative
15	2	positive	47	9	negative
16	2	negative	48	9	negative
17	4	positive	49	9	negative
18	4	negative	50	9	negative
19	4	positive	51	9	negative
20	4	positive	52	9	negative
21	4	negative	53	10	negative
22	4	negative	54	10	negative
23	5	negative	55	10	negative
24	5	negative	56	10	negative
25	5	negative	57	10	negative
26	5	negative	58	10	negative
27	5	negative	59	11	negative
28	5	negative	60	11	negative
29	6	negative	61	11	negative
30	6	negative	62	11	negative
31	6	negative	63	11	negative
32	6	negative	64	11	negative

3. Advise whether the suspected blueberry rust, found by the Costa Group horticulturalist 26 July 2016, was discussed with Biosecurity Tasmania between 26 July and 9 August 2016.

**Response:** No.

4. Provide the Department's understanding of the date suspected samples were forwarded by Costa Group to their NSW laboratory when stating in the submission:

*Initial reporting of blueberry rust to Biosecurity Tasmania by Costa Group occurred, on the 9th August 2016, 4 - 6 weeks after suspected plant samples were sent by Costa Group in Tasmania to a 'sister' property in NSW*

**Response:** It is understood that the outbreak was detected in July when samples were sent to Costas in NSW, then forwarded to the NSW Department of Primary Industries on 1 August 2016. As noted in DPIPW's submission, Biosecurity Tasmania were advised on 9 August 2016.