



COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES



THE SENATE

TRADE: BANANA IMPORTS

SPEECH

Thursday, 27 November 2003

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SENATE

SPEECH

Date Thursday, 27 November 2003
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Questioner
Speaker Cherry, Sen John

Source Senate
Proof No
Responder
Question No.

Senator CHERRY (Queensland) (11.08 am)—by leave—I move the motion as amended:

That the Senate—

(a) notes that:

(i) a draft import risk assessment on the importation of Filipino bananas released in July 2002 concluded, based on the best science available, that such imports should not be approved due to the unmanageable risk of the introduction of diseases like moko, and

(ii) the Filipino Government has challenged the Australian Government at the highest levels to overturn this decision; and

(b) calls on the Australian Government to:

(i) defend the science-based analysis of the import risk assessment process and to release the final report on Filipino bananas as soon as possible, and

(ii) defend Australia's quarantine standards in trade negotiations against pressure to water them down.

Question agreed to.