



**The N.S.W. Chamber of
Fruit & Vegetable Industries Inc.**

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MEDIA RELEASE

Consumers can be confident about the healthiness and quality of fruit and vegetables sold in Australia

“Consumers can be reassured of the safety of fresh produce they purchase from their local greengrocer or supermarket because, both domestic and imported produce, are regularly checked for the presence of pesticides and microbes.” said Lawrie Greenup, Consultant to the Fresh Produce Industry.

Lawrie was responding on behalf of Sydney Markets Limited and The NSW Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, to a recent television program about fruit and vegetables. The program implied considerable quantities of fruit and vegetables were brought into Australia from countries, such as China, and inferred these countries had less stringent controls than Australia over pesticides and microbial contamination.

“This was incorrect and misleading and could cause unnecessary consumer concerns.”

“Less than 5% of the fresh produce passing through the central markets system is imported, more than 95% being produced domestically.”

“The major quantity of fresh produce imported into Australia comes from New Zealand and USA, countries with similar production techniques and regulatory controls as Australia. China, and other Asian countries, supply very little when compared with the total fresh produce consumed in Australia.” Lawrie stated.

FreshTest, the national chemical and microbial monitoring program, conducted by The Australian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries’, maintains a close watch on both domestic and imported fruit and vegetables.

“To date, FreshTest results show there are no problems in the imported produce and, overall, results are similar to those found in domestic produce” Lawrie added

Lawrie pointed out there were various pesticide and microbial monitoring activities undertaken by Government agencies and industry and, this combined with industry quality assurance programs, ensured Australian consumers have access to fresh produce which meet the stringent safety levels set by the regulating authorities.

“The NSW Chamber and Sydney Markets take the concerns of consumers very seriously and can reassure them that fresh fruits and vegetables, both domestic and imported, are healthy and nutritious.”

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