

From: SHANE DOWLING [<mailto:shanedowling@outlook.com.au>]

Sent: Thursday, 3 November 2016 10:41 AM

To: Ag Media <Media@agriculture.gov.au>; Quinlivan, Daryl <Daryl.Quinlivan@agriculture.gov.au>

Subject: Media request - Shane Dowling - Kangaroo Court of Australia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Dear Sir/Madam

I spoke to Rebecca today who claimed that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources media team did not receive the email I sent last week even though I received a read receipt as per attached. Can you please answer the questions that I sent last week as per below.

I publish the website Kangaroo Court of Australia and have some questions in relation to Australian Honey and imported honey. Can you please answer the following questions:

1. Is the imported irradiated pollen from China that is fed to Australian bees that make honey sold to Capilano adequately tested when it enters the country?
2. Will the origin of the pollen come up in testing?
3. Has any Manuka honey tested shown traces of country of origin other than NZ or Australia when tested?
4. Does overseas ingredients in Australian honey effect Australia's credibility as an exporter?
5. Have you asked Capilano CEO Ben McKee about the widespread use of illegally obtained antibiotics on bees in the Australian industry? If not, why not?
6. Are beekeepers showing vet certificates to Capilano when they are treating their bees with antibiotics.
7. Has Capilano Honey or anyone been testing Capilano Honey for glyphosate (Roundup)?
8. Has other honey that the departments tests been tested for glyphosate (Roundup)?

Can you please respond to the above questions ASAP as I may have follow-up questions.

Regards

Shane Dowling

[Kangaroo Court of Australia](#)

Ph 0411 238 704

----- IMPORTANT - This email and any attachments have been issued by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture and Water Resources. The material transmitted is for the use of the intended recipient only and may contain confidential, legally privileged, copyright or personal information. You should not copy, use or disclose it without authorisation from the Department. It is your responsibility to check any attachments for viruses and defects before opening or forwarding them. If you are not an intended recipient, please contact the sender of this email at once by return email and then delete both messages.

Unintended recipients must not copy, use, disclose, rely on or publish this email or attachments. The Department of Agriculture and Water Resources is not liable for any loss or damage resulting from unauthorised use or dissemination of, or any reliance on, this email or attachments. If you have received this e-mail as part of a valid mailing list and no longer want to receive a message such as this one, advise the sender by return e-mail accordingly. This notice should not be deleted or altered -----

From: Ag Media [<mailto:Media@agriculture.gov.au>]

Sent: Friday, 4 November 2016 3:51 PM

To: SHANE DOWLING <shanedowling@outlook.com.au>

Cc: Ag Media <Media@agriculture.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Media request - Shane Dowling - Kangaroo Court of Australia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Good afternoon Shane

Please see immediately below for responses to your questions which may be attributed to a spokesperson for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, if required.

Have a nice weekend.

1. Is the imported irradiated pollen from China that is fed to Australian bees that make honey sold to Capilano adequately tested when it enters the country?

The Australian Government directs imported bee pollen for gamma irradiation upon arrival in Australia. This is to meet our import conditions which are in place to manage any biosecurity risk, and to negate the need for further testing or treatment.

1. Will the origin of the pollen come up in testing?

As the gamma irradiation manages the biosecurity risk, no further testing of the imported pollen is required.

2. Has any Manuka honey tested shown traces of country of origin other than NZ or Australia when tested?

The department does not test honey for evidence of the country of origin.

3. Does overseas ingredients in Australian honey effect Australia's credibility as an exporter?

Australian honey producers are successfully exporting honey to the world, with exported honey valued at \$37 million in the last financial year. Main destinations are China, Hong Kong, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

The clean, green reputation of all Australian food exports is important and the Australian honey industry is aware of the importance of maintaining that reputation.

4. Have you asked Capilano CEO Ben McKee about the widespread use of illegally obtained antibiotics on bees in the Australian industry? If not, why not?

Only antibiotics registered for use on bees by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) may be used in Australia.

5. Are beekeepers showing vet certificates to Capilano when they are treating their bees with antibiotics.

The department has no comment to make regarding Capilano or its operations.

7. Has Capilano Honey or anyone been testing Capilano Honey for glyphosate (Roundup)?
8. Has other honey that the departments tests been tested for glyphosate (Roundup)?

The department's National Residue Survey does not undertake glyphosate testing of Australian honey. The NRS is not aware of any herbicide testing of honey undertaken by Capilano.

Testing of imported honey by the department's Imported Food Inspection Scheme does not include analysis for residues of agricultural chemicals such as glyphosate.

With regards

Media

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
02 6272 3232

agriculture.gov.au

Follow us on Twitter: [@DeptAgNews](#)

NEW! Like us on Facebook: [Australian Biosecurity](#)

.....
Note to media: Unless otherwise agreed, the information contained in this email is for background and is not for attribution.

From: SHANE DOWLING [<mailto:shanedowling@outlook.com.au>]

Sent: Monday, 7 November 2016 10:45 AM

To: Ag Media <Media@agriculture.gov.au>

Subject: Follow-up question. RE: Media request - Kangaroo Court of Australia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi

Can you please clarify your answer to question 8 below?

You say: *"The department's National Residue Survey does not undertake glyphosate testing of Australian honey. The NRS is not aware of any herbicide testing of honey undertaken by Capilano."*

Does the department's National Residue Survey do any herbicide testing at all?

Regards

Shane Dowling
[Kangaroo Court of Australia](#)
Ph 0411 238 704

From: Ag Media [mailto:Media@agriculture.gov.au]
Sent: Monday, 7 November 2016 11:36 AM
To: SHANE DOWLING <shanedowling@outlook.com.au>
Cc: Ag Media <Media@agriculture.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Follow-up question. RE: Media request - Shane Dowling - Kangaroo Court of Australia [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Shane

In 2015–16, the NRS analysed a total of 126 honey samples from around Australia in 167 tests. Samples were tested for selected antibiotics, fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, metals and other environmental contaminants. The overall compliance with Australian Standards was 97.6 per cent.

Regards

Media

Department of Agriculture and Water Resources
02 6272 3232

agriculture.gov.au

Follow us on Twitter: [@DeptAgNews](#)

NEW! Like us on Facebook: [Australian Biosecurity](#)

.....
Note to media: Unless otherwise agreed, the information contained in this email is for background and is not for attribution.