

# RISK BACKGROUND

## Fresh *Brassica* spp. for human consumption

### Overview



(Image: Huff. A, (2006), *cabbage*, <https://flic.kr/p/bkK52> (CC BY-NC 2.0))

The genus *Brassica* includes cabbage, kale broccoli and cauliflower.

*Brassica* spp. imported for human consumption do not require an import permit but must be:

- a permitted plant part as specified in BICON
- from a permitted country of export as listed in BICON
- subject to pre-export inspection by the exporting country
- accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate
- packaged in secure packaging (i.e. insect-proof)
- inspected on-arrival.

Importers and department staff should ensure that the BICON conditions are met and that goods are free from biosecurity risks, as well as the key risks described below.

### Key risks

#### Arthropods

- Leaf miners, including the vegetable leaf miner (*Liriomyza sativae*) and the American serpentine leaf miner (*L. trifolii*) are national priority plant pests for Australia. They feed on a wide range of plant material and are serious pests of both ornamental and vegetable crops. Infestation is characterised by white, 'tunnel-like' markings on foliage or stems, or the presence of eggs on leaves/stem parts.
- The tarnished plant bug (*Lygus lineolaris*) and the western plant bug (*L. hesperus*) are national priority pests for Australia. Both plant bugs are highly polyphagous and are known to occur on cauliflower and cabbage plants. While plant bugs are difficult to detect with the naked eye, infestations can be characterised by ragged, discoloured leaves.
- Species of cabbage butterfly such as the large white cabbage butterfly (*Pieris brassicae*) (larvae pictured adjacent), and the southern cabbage butterfly (*P. protodice*) are exotic and pose an unacceptable biosecurity risk to Australia. Populations of cabbage butterfly larvae place significant browsing pressure on a range of *Brassica* spp.



(Image: Ruiz. A. T, (2010), *Pieris brassicae*, <https://flic.kr/p/7zLHim> (CC BY-NC 2.0))

The risks associated with arthropods pests are managed by phytosanitary certification, use of secure packaging and inspection on-arrival.

#### Other pathway risks

Imports of fresh *Brassica* spp. for human consumption may harbour biosecurity risk material including a range of live insects, disease symptoms, and contaminants such as soil, weed seeds, hitchhiker pests and trash. These risks are managed through a range of import conditions as outlined above.