



22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010

### **Support for Australian grown now more important than ever**

As you may be aware, last week Apple and Pear Australia Ltd (APAL) lost their appeal against the recommendation to allow Chinese apples to be imported into Australia, urging the Batlow Fruit Co-operative to call for consumers to show their support toward Australian grown.

Batlow Fruit Co-operative chairman, John Robson highlights the impact these Chinese imports will have on Australian apple growers, and how Batlow Apples will continue to fight.

“This is an extremely concerning situation for Australian apple growers, and is one that could have a huge impact on our industry and also on consumers and the food that is available to them. Not only will Chinese apples bring the threat of disease and pests to our country, foreign fruits will undoubtedly out price locally grown produce, putting growers at financial risk.”

“While it is a very unfortunate situation for our industry, we are hoping that the government will push for stringent regulations on country of origin ticketing to ensure consumers can identify which foods are Australian grown and have passed our strict quality standards, and encourage them to support Australian grown produce.”

**ENDS**

**For further media information, contact Ashley Gatte at Stellar\* Concepts on 02 9151 5908 or [ashley@stellar.net.au](mailto:ashley@stellar.net.au)**

#### **Notes to Editors:**

*The Batlow Fruit Co-operative is grower owned and 100 per cent Australian. It is today recognised as one of the largest storage and packing operations in the country, collectively packing and marketing an average of one million cartons of apples every year.*

*For further information on the Batlow Fruit Co-operative, visit [www.batlow.com.au](http://www.batlow.com.au)*