ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1998/19

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PRAWN PRODUCT

OUTCOME OF AN APPEAL AGAINST PROCESS

Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1997/100 advised that the Executive Director of AQIS had confirmed the non-routine approach for the import risk analysis (IRA) and the membership of the risk analysis panel (RAP). This stage was subject to appeal on the processes followed.

Mr Rodney Evans, Managing Director, Primo Aquaculture Pty Ltd and a member of the Australian Prawn Farmers Association (APFA), lodged an appeal on 15 December 1997 which related to (a) the consultation process, in that as a stakeholder, he had not been directly advised of the IRA.
process developments; and (b) the RAP membership, which he considered lacked expertise specifically in the area of hazard analysis as relevant to prawn feed manufacture.

Under the new IRA process, established following the Government’s response to Nairn, the appeal was considered by the Secretary of the Department of Primary Industries and Energy in his role as the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine. The Secretary determined on 5 February 1998 that proper processes had been followed and did not uphold Mr Evans’ appeal. On the consultation aspect, although AQIS uses industry associations as a channel for communication with individuals and firms, individuals will be included on request (as has subsequently occurred with Mr Evans). Regarding the expertise of the panel, the Secretary was satisfied that IRAs which deal with a broad range of products such as the prawn product IRA would require a broadly-based RAP. To ensure the RAP remains of manageable size, particular issues such as prawn feed manufacture may be the subject of consideration of an expert working group, at the discretion of the RAP.

The IRA process will now continue; the next consultation step will be determined by the RAP which will meet shortly. Dr Sarah Kahn has returned to head the Animal Quarantine Policy Branch of AQIS and as such will replace Dr Wilson as chair of the RAP.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you require any further information on this matter.

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