8 May 1998

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1998/42

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT  
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations  
Office of the Australian CVO  
Animal Diseases/Incidents Section, LPD, DPIE  
Animal and Plant Health Branch, BRS, DPIE  
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul  
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo

CSIRO Division of Animal Health  
National Farmers' Federation  
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF  
Australian Animal Health Council  
Australian Veterinary Association  
Chief Veterinary Officer, MAF RA, NZ  
National Meat Association of Australia

Wildlife Australia, Environment Australia  
Wildlife Protection Section, Environment Australia  
Australian Fisheries Management Authority  
Division of Marine Research, CSIRO  
Australian Seafood Industry Council  
Australian Institute of Marine Science  
ACIAR Fisheries Coordinator  
Australian Seafood Importers Association  
Standing Committee on Fisheries & Aquaculture  
Aquaculture Committee  
Scientific and Research Organisations

Fisheries and Aquaculture Branch, DPIE  
Fisheries Research & Development Corporation  
Fishing Industry Advisory Committee  
Australian Recreational & Sport Fishing Confederation  
Aquaculture CRC Limited  
Australian Prawn Farmer’s Association  
Australian Aquaculture Forum  
Food and Beverage Importers Council  
Health and Environment Committee  
Aquatic Animal Disease Experts  
Fishing, Industry and Community Organisations

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PRAWN AND PRAWN PRODUCTS

PROGRESS REPORT

The risk analysis panel (RAP) met in Canberra on 24 - 25 March 1998. The RAP comprises Dr Sarah Kahn (AQIS), Dr Dick Callinan (NSW Fisheries), Dr Steve Percival (consultant), Mr Glen Hurry (Fisheries Branch, DPIE) and Dr Judith Bourne (AQIS). Dr Kahn, who has returned as Head of Animal Quarantine Policy Branch, assumed the chair of the RAP from Dr David Wilson.

The Panel considered a number of issues, which are summarised below. Technical issues raised by stakeholders were discussed, including the subject matters identified in a specific appeal (AQPM 98/19 refers). The Panel has agreed a work program to address these and other key issues. The work program will involve AQIS commissioning several external consultancies.
Significant milestones in the IRA process include:

- further RAP meetings to be held in July 1998 (in Townsville), December 1998 and April 1999
- release of an import risk analysis issues paper for public comment (60 days) in August 1998 - this report will canvas the scope of the analysis, the main pest and disease risk issues and other matters relevant to the IRA
- release of the draft import risk analysis paper for comment (60 days) in January 1999 - this report will take account of public comment; will identify risk management options and will contain draft recommendations
- provision of the final import risk analysis report to the Executive Director of AQIS for consideration in May 1999.

AQIS will commission external consultancies on several topics, including on:

- imported products pathways - evaluation of routes by which aquatic animals in Australia (including prawns) may be exposed to aquatic animal products imported for human consumption
- crustacean feed products - a report on the raw materials used in and the processing of crustacean feed products containing material derived from prawns, including the application of quality assurance programs, HACCP, etc
- economic impact - assessment of the economic impact of the establishment of exotic prawn pathogens (using WSSV and IHHNV as examples) on domestic prawn populations
- environmental impact - assessment of the environmental impact of the establishment of exotic prawn pathogens (using WSSV and IHHNV as examples) on domestic prawn populations.

AQIS will develop the terms of reference for consultancies in consultation with the external members of relevant risk analysis panels. Consultancy reports will be reviewed by the RAP and made available for public consideration. The completed consultancy report on exotic prawn diseases (Ausvet report) will also be reviewed by the RAP and will be included as part of an appendix to the draft risk issues report.

Please contact the officer whose details appear below for further information on this import risk analysis.
Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1982, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the submission will not be treated as confidential unless they are marked ‘confidential’ and they are capable of being classified as such in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

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Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

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