11 March 1999

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 1999/20

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: IMPORTATION OF PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS: PROGRESS REPORT

In AQPM 1998/86 of 14 November 1998, AQIS released the technical issues paper of the import risk analysis (IRA) on prawns and prawn products. The comment period was extended to 19 February 1999 at the request of stakeholders. AQIS received seven submissions which raised the following technical issues:

- the relationship between overseas and Australian strains of viruses, e.g. yellowhead virus and Australian yellow head-like isolates (gill associated virus (GAV) and lymphoid organ virus(LOV));
- the possibility that environmental factors may explain the differences in virulence between Australian and overseas viruses;
- the taxonomy of diseases agents, e.g. fungi were considered at the genus level, whereas viral strains were compared;
- the potential effects of exotic microorganisms, such as fungi on Australian crustaceans; and
- State legislation controlling the movement of prawns and prawn products.
The risk analysis panel (RAP) will consider stakeholders’ submissions and the draft IRA will address these issues.

AQIS has also held bilateral discussions with the Thai Government on the technical issues paper.

The reports commissioned by AQIS on the “Economic impact of the establishment of exotic prawn pathogens”, “Assessment of the environmental impact of the establishment of exotic prawn pathogens”, “Routes of exposure of aquatic animals to aquatic animal products intended for human consumption”, “Crustacean feeds” and “Product testing” are expected to be made available to the public when the draft report of IRA is released in July 1999.

**RAP membership**

Dr Steve Percival has withdrawn from the RAP and AQIS proposes to replace him with Dr Leigh Owens of James Cook University. Dr Owens is recognised within Australia and internationally as an expert in crustacean disease. He is familiar with the issues and process of the prawn IRA as he has been assisting the RAP with scientific review of draft reports and other papers.

AQIS invites comment by 16 April 1999 on the proposed appointment of Dr Owens as a member of the RAP.

**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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STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK TO AQIS

AQIS’s new import risk analysis process and associated consultative arrangements are well into their first year of implementation. We would appreciate your feedback on those arrangements and would be grateful if you would take a few minutes to fill in this survey and mail it to AQIS.

The form is self addressed and does not need a stamp if posted in Australia. Simply fold at the dotted lines and staple so that the “reply paid” face is on the outside.
1. Are you receiving all the information on animal quarantine policy that you wish to see?
(please circle)  Yes  No

Comment: .........................................................................................................................
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2. Is the information you receive from AQIS generally clear, complete and accurate?
(please circle)  Yes  No

(fold)........................................................................................................................................

Comment: .........................................................................................................................
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3. How could AQIS improve arrangements for providing information on animal quarantine policy to clients?

Comment: .........................................................................................................................
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Name:
Company/Organisation:
REPLY PAID 1323
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