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Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY –
AUSTRALIA**

28 April 2003

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/11

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of the outcomes of the tenth and eleventh meetings of the risk analysis panel for the Import Risk Analysis on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand.

In our Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) 2003/02 of 7 January 2003, we advised you of the outcomes of the eighth and ninth meetings of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of apples from New Zealand. That PBPM indicated that the next meeting of the RAP was scheduled for 30-31 January 2003. The purpose of this PBPM is to inform you of the outcomes of the two RAP meetings that have been held since our last advice.

At their first meeting, RAP members agreed on the importance of keeping stakeholders informed and asked that Biosecurity Australia circulate a summary of each of its meetings to stakeholders. Accordingly, the RAP's summaries of its tenth and eleventh meetings are at Attachment 1 for your information.

At the tenth meeting, which was held on 30-31 January, the RAP discussed the details of the method it will follow in conducting its analysis. The RAP also continued its discussion of the consequences of fire blight entering, establishing and/or spreading in Australia. At the eleventh meeting, which was held on 11-13 March, the RAP continued to discuss the method section for the revised draft IRA and the inputs required to conduct risk analysis simulations.

The next face to face RAP meeting is foreshadowed for July 2003. However, the RAP will maintain contact through regular teleconferences.

I would also like to advise you that the chair of the RAP, Dr Bill Roberts, has accepted a secondment to the position of Coordinator, International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat. This is a key role in the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which includes facilitating the development of International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs). Plant quarantine has relatively few international standards in place, when compared to the related areas of animal quarantine and food safety. Dr Roberts has moved to Rome for the rest of 2003. David Cartwright has agreed to fill the role of acting chair of the RAP whilst Dr Roberts is overseas. Dr Roberts will stay involved with the risk analysis and will provide guidance where necessary.

You may recall that the Senate Committee on Rural and Regional affairs and Transport is conducting an inquiry into the administration and management by Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia of the proposed importation of fresh apple fruit from New Zealand to Australia. The Government's response to the committee's interim report was tabled in Parliament on 20 March 2003. I anticipate that the Government's response will be posted on the committee's web site (http://www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/rrat_ctte/responses/index.htm) in the near future.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant Biosecurity 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

Consultation

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services at the following address.

Technical and Administrative Services
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Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

Christopher Hood
A/g General Manager
Plant Biosecurity
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Meeting summary – RAP 10

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its tenth meeting on the 30 and 31 January 2003. A report from the previous RAP meetings has been approved and will be placed on the public file.

The RAP focused most of its attention on the draft method section for the revised draft IRA. The RAP also continued its discussion of factors involved in the assessment of consequences.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for 11-13 March 2003.

NZ Apple RAP
February 2003

Meeting summary – RAP 11

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its eleventh meeting on 11-13 March 2003. A report from the previous RAP meetings has been approved and will be placed on the public file.

The chair of the RAP, Dr Bill Roberts, advised that he had accepted a secondment to the position of Coordinator, International Plant Protection Convention Secretariat, which is a key role in the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). As this means moving to Rome for the rest of 2003, the RAP agreed that David Cartwright should take over as acting chair, under guidance from Bill Roberts who will stay involved with the risk analysis.

The RAP continued to discuss the draft method section for the revised draft IRA. This method section sets out a model to be used in the risk assessment. The model has in turn been defined in a spreadsheet, which will allow simulations to be conducted using the @Risk computer program. Much of this meeting was taken up with consideration of the inputs required to conduct risk analysis simulations and testing of the accuracy of the spreadsheet.

The next face to face RAP meeting is foreshadowed for July 2003. However, the RAP will monitor progress via regular teleconferences.

NZ Apple RAP
March 2003