



19 February 2004

## ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/01

### PIG MEAT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

#### RELEASE OF THE FINAL REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the release of the *Final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report* of pig meat (attached is an Executive Summary and quarantine requirements for the importation of pig meat). Under the IRA process stakeholders are provided with an appeal opportunity. The appeal period closes on 22 March 2004.

Biosecurity Australia released the *Draft IRA Report* of pig meat on 12 August 2003 for 60 days public comment. Public meetings were held in late September/early October in Bendigo, Young and Toowoomba. Twenty four submissions were received and the risk analysis panel has considered these comments and finalised the IRA. The main changes from the draft report include

- . modification of the minimum and most likely values for the assumed volume of trade of imported pig meat have been increased to 50,000 and 90,000 tonnes respectively, in light of current pig meat import figures;
- . clarification of the risk management measures for post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) – processing may be undertaken either off-shore or on-shore – bone, major peripheral lymph nodes and the head and neck must be removed prior to the export of pig meat for processing on-shore;
- . modification of the estimate of likelihood that a slaughter-age pig from a porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) infected herd is infected from ‘moderate’ to ‘low’ (release assessment step 2) – when the simulation was rerun with the new value, the overall unrestricted risk is ‘low’, hence risk management is still required;
- . clarification of the risk management measures for swine vesicular disease (SVD) with regard to sourcing pigs for the production of Parma type hams – the pigs from which the meat is derived must be sourced from herds serologically tested negative.

Attached are the Executive Summary and the recommended quarantine requirements for the importation of pig meat. The full report (around 1,000 pages) is available on the Department’s web site at [www.daff.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia](http://www.daff.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia), then follow the links to IRAs and pig meat (the document is in pdf format and is 4mb in size). A hard copy of the document can be obtained from the contact officer nominated below. The *Final Report* includes as an annex copies of the stakeholder submissions to the *Draft Report* and the panel's responses to the issues raised.

The report recommends that the importation of pig meat be permitted subject to certain conditions depending on the health status of the exporting country or zone. Risk management measures include such things as country, zone or herd freedom, testing of the carcass, cooking, freezing, curing, canning and removal of certain tissues or parts of the carcass (removal of the head, neck, bones and major lymph nodes).

Under the IRA process, as set out in the revised *IRA Handbook 2003*, the risk analysis panel has presented the *Final Report* to the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia. The Executive Manager has considered and endorsed the IRA report and its recommendations. The process provides an appeal opportunity at this stage. Stakeholders have 30 days to lodge an appeal in writing with the Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP) – a body independent from Biosecurity Australia – on one or both the following grounds:

- . there was a significant deviation from the process set out in the IRA Handbook that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder
- . a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

In lodging appeals, stakeholders must give reasons for their appeal. The IRAAP will consider any appeal and report its findings to the appellant(s) and the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine within 45 days of the closing date for appeals. Further information on the IRAAP is in the *IRA Handbook 2003* which is available at the Biosecurity Australia website. Appeals should be sent to:

The Manager  
IRAAP Secretariat  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Fax 02 6272 4600  
Email: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

If there are no appeals, any appeal is dismissed or once the identified deficiencies arising from a successful appeal are addressed the next step is for the recommended policy to be submitted to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine for determination. Once the Director makes the final determination, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is advised of the new policy and is responsible for its implementation.

### **Next Steps**

The appeal period closes on 22 March 2004. Appeals must be in writing, addressed to the IRAAP Secretariat. Biosecurity Australia will provide further advice on the next steps once the appeal period closes.

Biosecurity Australia and the risk analysis panel wish to thank stakeholders for their contributions to this IRA. Please contact Biosecurity Australia if you wish to discuss or clarify any aspects of the IRA, outside the appeal process.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer.

## **Confidentiality**

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to ABPMs will be publicly available. Comments 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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