



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

23 November 2006

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/35**

**REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR  
PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) notifies stakeholders of the release of the *Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Prawns and Prawn Products* and advises stakeholders of their opportunity to provide comment to Biosecurity Australia on the report. It also foreshadows the possible recommendation of strengthened interim quarantine measures for continuing imports based on the draft report's recommendations. An extended consultation period of 90 days is being provided for stakeholders to submit comments. Comments should be submitted by 21 February 2007.

In May 2006, Biosecurity Australia notified the status of the import risk analysis (IRA) of prawns and prawn products and announced changes to the IRA team (see BAPM 2006/16 of 16 May 2006).

Australia currently allows prawns and prawn products to be imported for human consumption subject to compliance with quarantine conditions intended to manage the risks of yellowhead virus, white spot syndrome virus (WSSV) and Taura syndrome virus. These conditions, which include health certification, on-arrival inspection, as well as testing for WSSV, were introduced progressively from 2000 on an interim basis while the comprehensive risk analysis was being completed.

The Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia has agreed to the release of a revised draft IRA report for the importation of prawns and prawn products from all sources, intended for human consumption, for comment by stakeholders. An extended consultation period of 90 days is being provided for stakeholders to submit comments on the draft report, compared with the usual period of 60 days. This reflects the size and complexity of the report that stakeholders need to absorb and comment on, stakeholder interest in an extended comment period and the seasonal holidays falling during the comment period. The deadline for comments is 21 February 2007.

The IRA is a generic analysis. Accordingly, the IRA considers the importation of prawns and prawn products from all countries. The analysis includes assessment of all potential disease agents that may be introduced to Australia via the importation of prawns and prawn products with risk management options to address particular diseases. Import conditions for specific countries or zones will depend on the health status of the exporting country or zone.

The draft report includes risk assessments of nine disease agents of quarantine concern. The report concludes that five of these disease agents require quarantine risk management measures if imports are to continue. These are:

- white spot syndrome virus (WSSV)
- yellowhead virus (YHV)
- infectious hypodermal and haematopoietic necrosis virus (IHHNV)
- Taura syndrome virus (TSV)
- necrotising hepatopancreatitis bacterium (NHPB).

The draft report concludes that stronger measures are required to manage the quarantine risks to a level consistent with Australia's appropriate level of protection. Risk management measures include:

- country or zone disease freedom; or
- removal of the head and shell and testing for WSSV, YHV and IHHNV; or
- a high level of processing for uncooked prawns, for example crumbed prawns, or pastries or dim sum-type products; or
- cooking product off-shore with acceptable certification or cooking on-shore under quarantine control.

Biosecurity Australia will consider other measures suggested by stakeholders that provide an equivalent level of protection.

Subject to considering stakeholder comments, Biosecurity Australia intends to recommend strengthening the current interim quarantine measures soon after the end of the comment period, consistent with the measures proposed in the draft report, pending finalisation of the IRA.

The draft IRA report for prawns and prawn products is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au). A hard copy of the report can be requested from the contact officer below. In addition, Biosecurity Australia will post on the website a corrigendum of corrections that may be required that come to its attention during the consultation period.

## **Consultation**

Technical comments, supported by published references where available, on the revised draft IRA report for prawns and prawn products, including those relevant to the proposed measures, should be submitted by 21 February 2007 to Biosecurity Australia as follows:

Animal Biosecurity Secretariat  
Biosecurity Australia  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6272 4436  
Facsimile: (02) 6272 3399  
E-mail: [animalbiosecurity@daff.gov.au](mailto:animalbiosecurity@daff.gov.au)

An electronic version of submissions would be appreciated. Biosecurity Australia will consider all stakeholder comments as it prepares a final IRA report.

For further information on the draft IRA report or on the IRA process please contact the officer below. Information on IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Internet at [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au).

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 (details below).

## **Confidentiality**

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