

Dear Stakeholder

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS -APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

In our letter of 25 February 1999, we advised you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will conduct an import risk analysis (IRA) for the importation of apples from New Zealand.

AQIS will conduct the risk analysis using the IRA process outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which has been distributed to stakeholders. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed approach to the risk analysis.

The process

AQIS considers that the risk analysis on the importation of apples from New Zealand should be undertaken using the routine IRA process outlined in the handbook. This is based on consideration that this proposal does not require assessment of significantly greater or different risks than those AQIS has previously examined

Timeframe for completing the risk analysis

We estimate that the risk analysis will take approximately twelve months to complete using the routine process. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect the draft IRA paper to be released in November 1999. Stakeholders will be kept informed if there are any significant delays or variations to the proposed timeframe.

Request for comments

You are invited to comment on the proposal to conduct the IRA using the routine process. Your comments will be taken into consideration by AQIS in finalising its position on the type of process to be followed. A number of stakeholders have already commented on the type of IRA process. These will be considered when making a final decision on the process. AQIS will accept written submissions on this issue until the close of business on 17 May 1999.

Responses should be forwarded to:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantquar@aqis.gov.au

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 the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the above address.

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the review will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in the review. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. The contents of a 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*.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine
Director
Policy and International Division

15 April 1999