



**Market
Access
and
Biosecurity**

17 October 2000

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/22

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to advise stakeholders of the outcome of the first round of consultation on the import risk analysis (IRA) for bananas from the Philippines and to seek stakeholder comments on the proposed scope, timing and membership of the Risk Analysis Panel.

PQPM 2000/10 of 28 June 2000 invited all stakeholders to comment on the type of risk analysis process to be followed in this instance. Eleven of the twelve stakeholders that responded supported the proposal that the IRA be undertaken using the non-routine process. One stakeholder did not specifically comment on the type of process to be followed. Accordingly, AFFA will conduct a non-routine risk analysis. The steps of the non-routine process are outlined in *'The AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook'*, which has been distributed to stakeholders and is available from the IRA Secretariat.

AFFA now invites stakeholders to comment on the proposed scope, timing and membership of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP):

Scope

The IRA will consider imports of fresh edible fruit of banana varieties of Cavendish (Extra Dwarf, Giant Cavendish and Grand Nain), Gros Michel and William bananas from the Mindanao region (Davao, Cotabato and Bukidnon) in the Philippines.

Timing

It is estimated that the non-routine risk analysis will take approximately eighteen to twenty-four months to complete from the date of commencement. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect a draft issues paper to be circulated in December 2000. The draft IRA paper is likely to be released for consideration and comment by August 2001.

Membership of the RAP

The composition of the panel is required to reflect a balance between members with experience and expertise in quarantine risk analysis who are aware of international obligations and responsibilities, and members drawn from scientific organisations, State

departments, private consultancy firms, or qualified members of the public. Members are selected because of their scientific expertise and not as representatives of any particular organisation, sector or industry and are independent of any particular commercial interest.

The proposed panel is:

Dr Sharan Singh (Chair)
A/g Senior Manager
Plant Biosecurity Policy
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia

Dr Rob Allen
Principal Policy Officer
Plant Health
Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Dr Bryan Cantrell
Principal Policy Officer
Plant Health
Queensland Department of Primary Industries

Mr Bob Paton
Policy Officer
Market Access
NSW Agriculture

Mr Mike Robbins
Manager
Animal and Plant Programs
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

A précis of the curriculum vitae of each member of the panel is at **Attachment 1**. Other scientific experts nominated by stakeholders will be considered as possible members of working groups, if required, to assist the panel.

You are invited to comment on the proposed panel membership, as well as the scope and timing of the IRA. Your comments will be taken into consideration when AFFA finalises its position on these issues at the end of the consultation period. AFFA will accept written submissions until the close of business on Friday 17 November 2000. Responses should be forwarded to:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

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*.

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.

Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity Policy is available on the web at http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plhome1.html

We look forward to receiving your input.

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Contact:	Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
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E-mail:	plantbiosec@affa.gov.au