



23 November 2000

**BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA**

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/25

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - ORNAMENTAL BULBS FROM THE
NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, ISRAEL AND NEW
ZEALAND**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides stakeholders with information regarding the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of ornamental bulbs from The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand.

AFFA has now conducted the IRA on the importation of ornamental bulbs from The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand, and the draft IRA paper is enclosed.

You are invited to comment on the technical issues raised in the draft IRA paper. AFFA will accept written submissions until the close of business on 12 February 2001. Submissions should be sent to the following address:

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

AFFA's main concern throughout the IRA has been to ensure the integrity of Australia's quarantine standards to protect Australia's plant industries and the environment from exotic pests and diseases. The proposals in the draft IRA should not cause significant changes to current trade. By using more effective pest risk management measures, importation of bulbs should be easier, quicker and safer. The biggest changes proposed to current import conditions are:

- Optional cold storage of bulbs under bond. This will allow importers to delay warming and disinfestation treatment of bulbs until they are ready to plant.

- Testing of bulbs on arrival for quarantine viruses will improve the likelihood of detection and prevention of virus incursions.
- Hot water treatment is being encouraged as a more effective, safer alternative to fumigation with methyl bromide. Methyl bromide is likely to become unavailable in a few years. Bulbs that are hot water treated and tested negative for quarantine viruses will be able to be released immediately without requiring growth in post-entry quarantine.
- Bulbs from non-accredited sources will have to meet the same health standards as bulbs from accredited schemes, but there will be no limit on numbers of bulbs that can be imported once AQIS approval has been given to import.

After stakeholder comments are considered, the final IRA is expected to be published early next year. Changes to the current bulb import conditions are not envisaged until after the final IRA is approved and an implementation strategy finalised.

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*. The import risk analysis process, as documented in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, does not provide for extensions to the formal consultation stages.

AFFA proposes that the Risk Analysis Panel will hold a public meeting with stakeholders to discuss issues arising from the draft IRA paper. The meeting is planned for 29 November 2000 at 2.00 pm, Airport Motel and Convention Centre, 33 Ardlie Street, Attwood (phone 03 9333 2200) near Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne. A shuttle bus is available from the airport for the convenience of interstate stakeholders.

AFFA also wishes to advise that due to staff movements, Ms Louise Van Meurs will replace Dr Adrian Harris as Chair of the Technical Working Group, and Mr Nick Small will replace Ms Eve Steinke as Technical Secretary for this IRA.

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 and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plhome1.html

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