



20 December 2000

**BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA**

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/27

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS -
FRESH APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders that the period for comments on the draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) paper on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand has been extended to 28 February 2001.

In PBPM 2000/18 stakeholders were invited to comment on the draft IRA paper for the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand. The period for comment on the draft Import Risk Analysis closed on 11 December 2000 and Biosecurity Australia has received more than 100 submissions.

After careful consideration, and to ensure that no one is denied the opportunity to have input into this important policy making process, Mr Michael Taylor, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (AFFA) has decided to extend the period for interested parties to lodge written submissions until the end of February 2001. This decision has not been taken lightly and has been made in the best interests of all parties involved. It is about achieving the most scientifically rigorous outcome possible.

Stakeholders who provided written submissions during the consultation period would have already received advice of the extension under separate letter from Mr Michael Taylor. All groups or individuals that have provided submissions are invited to review and modify their submissions or to provide supplementary information on the draft IRA. Interested parties who have not yet provided comments are encouraged to do so.

All written submissions should be sent to the following address:

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 may be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in relation to the final IRA. 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 is available on the web at http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plhome1.html

I look forward to receiving either revised or new submissions from all interested parties on the draft IRA paper on the importation of apples from New Zealand by the end of February 2001.

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Plant Biosecurity

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