



19 October 2000

**BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA**

**ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/52
PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/21**

ESTABLISHMENT OF BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA

This Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of the establishment of Biosecurity Australia, within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries –Australia, which takes responsibility for import risk analysis (IRA) work and the negotiation of technical export issues.

On 6 October 2000, Mr Michael Taylor, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia (AFFA) announced the establishment of Biosecurity Australia, a group within AFFA, to take responsibility for assessing the quarantine risks associated with commodity imports. A copy of the press release is attached.

Responsibility for the conduct of IRAs previously rested with the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). IRAs will continue to be conducted according to the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*. However, under the changed administrative arrangements, determinations previously made by the Executive Director of AQIS will now be made by the appropriate Deputy Secretary of AFFA. Once quarantine policy is adopted, implementation is the responsibility of AQIS.

As foreshadowed when the Handbook was published, the IRA process is now being reviewed. Stakeholders will be consulted on this review shortly.

The Animal Biosecurity and Plant Biosecurity teams within Biosecurity Australia will manage IRAs of animals and animal products (including aquatic animals) and plants and plant products, respectively. A list of the current IRAs and their status is available from the AFFA website (see below). Biosecurity Australia will also negotiate with counterpart organisations in other countries on technical export issues. Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum 2000/51 provided details of our export market access program for animals and their products.

Information on Biosecurity Australia's activities is under the AFFA website at <http://www.affa.gov.au> and Biosecurity Australia can be found by clicking on the word

‘market access and biosecurity’ at the top of the page, or by clicking on the relevant icon. The full address to the new page is <http://www.affa.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia>. Bookmarks/favourites should be updated accordingly.

For further information, please contact the relevant officer whose details appear below.

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