



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



14 August 2001

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/17

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

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) provides an update on the status of the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for the importation of ornamental bulbs from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand.

In our PBPM 2000/25 of 23 November 2000, stakeholders were advised of the release of the draft IRA document on the importation of ornamental bulbs from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Israel and New Zealand.

Stakeholders were invited to forward their comments on the draft IRA by 12 February 2001. Comments were received from 15 stakeholders: 5 from the ornamental bulbs industry, 4 from national plant protection organisations of other countries, 4 from state departments of agriculture, 1 from a vegetable industry association and 1 from an individual.

AFFA would like to thank all those who responded with comments on the draft IRA. Since then, work has progressed on collating and compiling responses to the complex issues raised in the many lengthy submissions, and much new information has come to light as a result of the consultation process and subsequent follow up. The pest lists and pest data sheets are being checked and revised in the light of this new information. A reply will be sent to each respondent once all the information has been compiled. Biosecurity Australia staff also met with a group of ornamental bulbs industry representatives on 16 March 2001 to discuss progress and future directions for the IRA.

The Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) for this IRA met on 29 May 2001, and made a number of important decisions concerning the future direction of the IRA. A revised draft IRA will be prepared and released to all registered stakeholders for further comment, as per the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, 1998. The revised draft IRA will follow Biosecurity Australia's new, more transparent format for all IRAs.

The RAP also decided to reconstitute the Technical Working Group (TWG), because of loss of the Chair and two other members due to staff movements within AFFA.



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The reconstituted TWG, to be renamed the Scientific TWG, will consist of :

Mr David Letham (Chair, and new appointee to RAP)
 Mr Mark Whattam (fungi, viruses)
 Dr Vani Srungaram (viruses, bacteria, nematodes)
 Mr Robert Duthie (arthropods, editor)
 Mr David Porritt (weeds)

The RAP decided to form a second TWG to give more opportunity for industry and environmental groups to contribute to development of the IRA. This second TWG, to be named the Applied TWG, will be commissioned to ensure that any pest risk management measures proposed are practical for the bulbs industry and effective at managing risks to Australia. The Applied TWG will be Chaired by Mr Rob Schwartz (who is already a member of the RAP), and invitations have been sent to the Australian Onion Industry Association Inc., Australian Vegetable and Potato Growers Federation and Environment Australia to nominate people with appropriate expertise for this TWG. The ornamental bulbs industry has already nominated Mr John Osmelak for the TWG. The other industry and environmental organisations were selected to represent the main industries and stakeholders that could be affected by pests that may be transported on bulbs. The Applied TWG will collaborate with the Science TWG, and both will be responsible to, and report to, the RAP. Membership of the two TWGs could change with circumstances, and Biosecurity Australia and the RAP are willing to consider other suggestions from stakeholders for membership of the Applied TWG.

The RAP also developed a communication strategy that will ensure that regular updates on progress of the IRA are available to stakeholders. Biosecurity Australia plans to begin publishing a bimonthly newsletter in the near future that will publish items of interest on this IRA and other activities of Biosecurity Australia. 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

Once the pest lists have been revised, the RAP proposes to hold a stakeholder meeting in about three months to discuss the pest lists and other issues. Due to many requests from the bulbs industry, we propose to hold the meeting at the Institute for Horticultural Development, Knoxfield (eastern Melbourne) for the convenience of the majority of bulb growers. However, we are aware that this may not be convenient for some stakeholders, particularly from other states, and that we have already held three Bulbs IRA meetings with industry in Melbourne. If a significant number of stakeholders advise us that they prefer a different venue, we will consider holding the meeting in another state or near Tullamarine airport. Please advise Technical and Administrative Services at the address below if you prefer a venue other than Knoxfield for the stakeholder meeting. Details of the meeting will be advised once the pest lists have been revised.

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to this import proposal will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on the proposal. 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 Technical and Administrative Services at the address below.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

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