



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



8 October 2001

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/22

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

The purpose of this Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to notify stakeholders of the proposed membership of the Risk Analysis Panel.

Biosecurity Australia has decided to draw on additional scientific expertise by appointing a Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) to complete the import risk analysis (IRA) on New Zealand apples. We have adopted this approach to better utilise the available expertise and allow us to embrace the requests by stakeholders for more consultation and greater use of external scientific expertise in the IRA.

Collectively, the capacities of the six RAP members need to provide an appropriate combination of experience and expertise in biosecurity risk analysis; regulatory science; and plant pests and diseases. In identifying potential RAP members I have considered available staff from Biosecurity Australia and other government agencies (Federal and State), industry, scientific organisations, academia, private consultants and the general public. I have also considered the use of international expertise.

The chair must have experience in biosecurity policy, and a sound knowledge and understanding of Australian quarantine legislation, our international rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement and the Government's objectives for biosecurity. Although, RAPs are normally chaired by Biosecurity Australia, in this case I am nominating the most appropriate AFFA officer available, despite the fact that he currently works in another part of the department. Biosecurity Australia will provide the secretariat.

The proposed RAP membership has been determined on the basis that prospective members have:

- experience and expertise in biosecurity risk analysis and/or technical expertise in pests and diseases, or other disciplines relevant to the New Zealand apple import proposal (such as industry processes and trading patterns);
- proven capacity to exercise sound scientific judgement;
- knowledge of government processes and the national and international context of the IRA; and



Centenary of Federation

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absence of conflict of interest — any member would need to declare that their sources of income and/or representational responsibilities would not prevent them from providing impartial and independent advice; this is to ensure their membership of the IRA team would not put at risk stakeholder confidence in the scientific basis of the IRA.

As Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia, I would now like to advise you of my determination regarding the proposed membership of the RAP. The proposed panel members are:

Dr Bill Roberts (Chair)

Dr Roberts is currently AFFA's Chief Plant Protection Officer with responsibilities for national plant health infrastructure and eradication programs for exotic pests and diseases. He is also the former head of plant biosecurity policy in AFFA, where he was responsible for several major plant IRAs. He has training and research experience in plant pathology and has published work on modelling the spread of fire blight.

Mr David Cartwright

Mr Cartwright is a plant pathologist who is currently Manager of Plant Health in Primary Industries and Resources South Australia. He has experience in plant bacteriology and has formerly held positions as South Australia's Quarantine Plant Pathologist and Chief Quarantine Officer.

Dr Kent Williams

Dr Williams is Principal Research Scientist at CSIRO Sustainable Ecosystems. He has undertaken ecological research on a wide range of native species and introduced pests, across Australia and New Zealand. He is also involved in risk assessment of genetically modified organisms and is Chair of a CSIRO Institutional Biosafety Committee.

Mr Mike Kinsella

Mr Kinsella is a horticulturist who is the Principal of Kinsella Consulting and Secretary of the International Pink Lady Alliance. He was a member of the Steering Group on the development of Plant Health Australia and is also the former Chief Quarantine Officer and Director of Quarantine and Inspection Services in Victoria.

Mr Bill Hatton

Mr Hatton has fourteen year's experience as owner-manager of a sub-tropical fruit property. He has expertise in growing, packing and shipping a range of fruits. He is also an industry leader, whose current positions include President of Deciduous Fruit Australia Inc. and inaugural board member of the Horticulture Australia Council. In recent years he has been closely involved with the development of pest & disease incursion planning for the stone fruit industry.

Dr Brian Stynes

Dr Stynes is a plant pathologist who is currently General Manager of Plant Biosecurity in Biosecurity Australia, where his responsibilities include overseeing the management of all plant IRAs. He has extensive experience and expertise in quarantine regulation, trade development and research and development. He has formerly held Senior Plant Pathologist and Chief Quarantine Officer positions in Western Australia.

A précis of the curriculum vitae of each member of the proposed panel is at **Attachment 1**.

You may appeal against my determination on the proposed membership of the RAP to the Deputy Secretary of AFFA, Mr Geoff Gorrie. If you do lodge an appeal, you must give reasons for your appeal against the criteria provided above. Appeals should be sent to the Deputy Secretary at the following address by the close of business on **8 November 2001**

IRA appeals
 Attention: Mr Geoff Gorrie
 Deputy Secretary
 Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

If required, Mr Gorrie will consider any appeals, make a determination and notify each appellant within 30 days of receiving the appeal.

In making a determination on the appeal, Mr Gorrie will take into account whether the nominated RAP membership will allow adequate consideration of all relevant scientific issues and any other matter that he may think is relevant.

I would welcome your comments relating to this matter, including suggestions of other scientific experts, who can assist the panel as possible members of technical working groups. We will accept written comments until the close of the appeal period. Responses should be forwarded to:

Technical and Administrative Services
 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 comments or appeals received with respect to the RAP membership and related issues will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared by AFFA. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a comment or appeal, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. Comments or appeals 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 on 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 above address. Alternatively, information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity Policy is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantcra>

I look forward to receiving your input.

Mary Harwood
Executive Manager
Biosecurity Australia

Contact: Technical and Administrative Services
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