



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



File No. 01/2725

1 February 2002

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/03**

### **IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS FOR HORSES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

#### **RELEASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES PAPER**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with the *Technical Issues Paper* (Attachment A) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) of horses from the Republic of South Africa (RSA), for consideration and comment. Comments are due by 1 April 2002.

Australia currently does not allow the direct importation of horses from RSA.

In February 1996, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) circulated for comment draft conditions for the temporary importation of horses from the RSA for racing and competition purposes. At the time, respondents expressed concern about the importation of horses, particularly in relation to the diseases African horse sickness and equine encephalosis. Biosecurity Australia sought additional information concerning these diseases from the South African veterinary authorities.

During the last five years the European Union (EU) has implemented procedures to allow horses from RSA to enter the EU and this process, which involves extensive pre-export quarantine procedures in disease and vector free areas, has been watched closely by Biosecurity Australia. In 1998, a routine IRA was commenced on the importation of horses from RSA (Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda 1998/07 and 1998/40). The IRA was placed on hold due to the occurrence of African horse sickness in the surveillance zone of the Western Cape District of RSA in March - April 1999 and to other work priorities, in particular the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

In February 2001, Biosecurity Australia advised stakeholders via ABPM 2001/05 that work on the IRA had recommenced.

The attached *Technical Issues Paper* is intended to promote discussion and comment on the main pest and disease risk issues. The paper identifies 61 hazardous disease agents and parasites to be considered further in the IRA. It does not discuss risk management issues that will be addressed in the next consultation step, the draft IRA paper. Biosecurity Australia will take into account stakeholder comments on the *Technical Issues Paper* as it develops the draft IRA report.

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## **Next Steps**

I would appreciate receiving your comments, supported by scientific references, if available, by 1 April 2002.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this advice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

## **Confidentiality**

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available. Comments may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the 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.

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