



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



8 March 2002

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/10**

### **IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: IMPORTATION OF DEER AND THEIR GENETIC MATERIAL FROM ALL COUNTRIES**

#### **COMMENCEMENT ADVICE**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the commencement of an Import Risk Analysis (IRA) to develop quarantine policy for the importation of deer and their genetic material from all countries and seeks public comment on the proposed scope, indicative timetable and approach. Comments by 11 April 2002 would be appreciated.

Animal Biosecurity has received access requests for both non-domesticated and domesticated deer dating back to 1992. Currently there is no policy for the importation of live deer. While policies were developed for the importation of live deer from New Zealand (1989) and New Caledonia (1992), these were suspended in 1997 and 1999 respectively. Currently, there are policies for the importation of cervine genetic material from Member States of the European Union (EU), New Zealand and Poland. Cervine semen has been imported under these conditions.

The IRA is considered a high priority because one species of interest, the Philippines spotted deer, is the most threatened species of deer in the world. The wild population is only around 200 and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the species as 'critically endangered'. The zoo community, conservation groups and importers have expressed definite, continuing interest in this trade for nearly 10 years. Resources are now available within Animal Biosecurity for the IRA.

Stakeholders will be aware that the IRA process is under review (the last consultation on the draft 'Administrative Framework for IRAs' closed on 15 November 2001). Considering the advanced stage of the review and that the suggested changes have generally been supported, we propose at this point the IRA follow the revised process as set out in the draft Framework document.

#### **Scope**

The IRA will consider diseases associated with all deer species (all species of deer in the family cervidae) as well as genetic material.

The distinction between domesticated and non-domesticated members of the cervidae family is not clear and there is expected to be considerable overlap in the analysis of import risks. The assessment of risk will assume the eventual 'release' of imported deer regardless of whether deer are wild or domesticated.

Edmund Barton Building  
Barton ACT  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601  
ph +61 2 6272 3933  
fax +61 2 6272 5161  
[www.affa.gov.au](http://www.affa.gov.au)

ABN 24 113 085 695

## **Indicative timetable**

The IRA can draw on, and extend, the established policy for import of cervine genetic material from the EU, New Zealand and Poland. Because of this, and the existence of other relevant information, we estimate that the IRA process will take approximately 18 months to complete. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect to release the technical issues paper by mid 2002.

## **Approach**

Animal Biosecurity considers that it has the required technical expertise to conduct this risk analysis. We propose a team of Veterinary Officers from within Animal Biosecurity should conduct the IRA. The team has experience in a range of relevant diseases, epidemiology and risk analysis, and has developed relevant expertise through similar analyses on the risk of importing other ruminants from a number of other countries. Additionally, the IRA is not expected to be technically complex, and there is existing policy for cervine embryos and semen from other countries.

## **Your comments are invited**

You are invited to comment on the proposed scope of the IRA, the indicative timetable and the approach, including the in-house Animal Biosecurity team. Your response by 11 April 2002 would be appreciated. We will take your comments into consideration in making recommendations to the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Animal Biosecurity if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

## **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 and 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.

DAVID BANKS  
General Manager  
Animal Biosecurity

Contact Officer:	Warren Vant
Telephone no:	(02) 6272 4436
Facsimile no:	(02) 6272 3399
E-mail:	Warren.Vant@affa.gov.au