



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



6 May 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/20

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: IMPORTATION OF DEER AND CERVINE GENETIC MATERIAL FROM ALL COUNTRIES

CONFIRMATION OF SCOPE, TIMETABLE AND APPROACH

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides confirmation on the scope, indicative timetable and approach for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for the importation of deer and their genetic products from all countries. An appeal opportunity is provided and appeals should be received by 10 June 2002.

ABPM 2002/10 proposed the scope, indicative timetable and approach for the IRA. The IRA will consider diseases associated with all deer species (all species of deer in the family Cervidae) as well as genetic material and, subject to no unforeseen difficulties, will take approximately 18 months. We also proposed 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.

Seven stakeholders responded to ABPM 2002/10. Stakeholders generally supported the decision to proceed with the IRA. One stakeholder raised the need for full consideration of environmental issues. Another commented on the management of endangered species: that importation would create commercial interests that they are contrary to conservation issues and consequently have health implications. Environmental issues and health implications of the release from permanent quarantine will be part of the IRA and stakeholders will be given the opportunity to comment on these issues at the appropriate time. Stakeholder comments are held on the Public File in Biosecurity Australia's office in Canberra.

Following consideration of ABPM 2002/10 and the stakeholder comments, the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia has confirmed the scope, indicative timetable and approach as set out above.

Next Steps

As previously advised, the review of the IRA process is well advanced. One of the main equity issues that arose from the review is the need to extend the opportunity for stakeholders to appeal at an early stage in all IRAs. The current draft of the IRA process, circulated in November 2001, allows for stakeholders to appeal the Executive Manager's determination on the scope, indicative timetable and approach, including the IRA team. In light of the general acceptance of this

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

ABN 24 113 085 695

appeal step, we are providing stakeholders with the opportunity to appeal the Executive Manager's determination on these matters for this IRA. Stakeholders must give reasons for their appeal. Appeals should be sent to the following address by the close of business Monday 10 June 2002.

IRA Appeals
Mr Geoff Gorrie
Deputy Secretary
AFFA
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The Deputy Secretary will take into account the following matters in making a determination on any appeal:

- . whether the scope of the IRA is reasonable (with regard to the proposal or application, and any current related work) and is an efficient use of public resources;
- . whether the timetable will allow adequate opportunity for stakeholder input;
- . whether the nominated IRA team membership will provide appropriate expertise to consider all relevant scientific issues; and
- . any other matter that the Deputy Secretary may think is relevant.

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

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

