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ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/26

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PORCINE SEMEN PUBLIC MEETING

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of a public meeting to be held on 1 July 2002 to discuss and explain revisions arising from public comments on the draft IRA report on porcine semen. Comments on the revisions would be appreciated by 1 August 2002.

On 14 April 1999, the technical issues paper on porcine semen was circulated for public comment (AQPM 1999/25). Subsequently, on 22 March 2000, the draft IRA report was released. In May 2000, a public meeting was held in Canberra to discuss the draft IRA report.

The risk analysis panel has met on a number of occasions to consider stakeholder comments and to finalise the IRA. Two late submissions were also received and the panel has considered these as well. The panel has consulted technical experts in Australia and overseas in addressing comments made by stakeholders.

As a result, there are changes proposed to the IRA report. To inform you of the changes, I have attached for your information and comment a synopsis of the significant revisions to the draft IRA report. The main changes relate to the management of post-weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome (PMWS) and porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS). It is proposed that only frozen semen be imported. The semen must come from countries in which no cases of PMWS have occurred and a PCR test is required for PRRS affected countries.

Next Steps

To discuss and explain changes to the IRA, a public meeting is to be held in Canberra from 1.30 pm to 4.45 pm on Monday 1 July 2002. The venue will be the Edmund Barton Conference Centre, Kings Ave, Barton, ACT. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend. To facilitate organisation, intended participants are asked to advise the officer whose contact details appear below.

Irrespective of whether you will be attending, if you wish to provide written comments please forward them by 1 August 2002 to the contact officer 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.

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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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