



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



23 August 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/39

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: DOMESTIC ANIMAL FIBRES – WOOL, HAIR AND BRISTLES

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 domestic animal fibres – wool, hair and bristles, for consideration and comment. Comments would be appreciated by 25 October 2002.

The Technical Issues Paper is being released for public consultation as part of the IRA of domestic animal fibres – wool, hair and bristles. The importation of animal fibres (wool, hair and bristles) is currently permitted from any country, subject to certification of country or zone freedom from disease and/or processing to meet specified conditions.

The IRA commenced in November 1997 but because of limited resources and a higher priority being given to risk analyses on other animal products such as casings and skins and hides, work effectively commenced in 2001. Previous Animal Quarantine Policy Memoranda 1997/102, 1998/08 and 1998/29 consulted, and provided advice to, stakeholders on the approach to this IRA.

The IRA considers animal quarantine risks that may be associated with the importation into Australia of animal fibres (wool, hair and bristles, and their packaging) from any country. In this IRA, these products are defined as the external fibres derived from domesticated sheep, cattle, goats, horses, pigs, camels, South American camelids, rabbits, mink and related species. External fibres imported as furs or pelts were covered in a previous IRA on skins and hides.

Biosecurity Australia is currently reviewing the IRA process and expects to finalise the review by the end of 2002. A draft framework document was circulated in September 2001 (ABPM 2001/26). There has been general acceptance of several proposed changes, including the release of a Technical Issues Paper for all IRAs. On this basis we have prepared such a paper for this IRA.

The attached Technical Issues Paper is intended to promote discussion and comment on the main pest and disease risk issues. The paper identifies 36 disease agents as potential hazards to be considered further in the IRA. It does not discuss risk management issues, as this will be addressed in a later consultation step, the draft IRA paper. Animal Biosecurity 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 25 October 2002. Animal Biosecurity will consider all technical comments received.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details 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. 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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