



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



25 September 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/44

NON-VIABLE BIVALVE MOLLUSC IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS RELEASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES PAPER

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with the Technical Issues Paper (Attachment A) for the non-viable bivalve mollusc Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for their consideration and comment. Comments would be appreciated by 25 November 2002.

This Technical Issues Paper is being circulated for public consultation as part of the IRA of non-viable bivalve molluscs. ABPM 2002/18 dated 1 May 2002, provided stakeholders with a progress report on, and the next steps in, the IRA. It provided an update of a meeting held by the Risk Analysis Panel to discuss the scope and purpose of the Technical Issues Paper. A second meeting of the panel has since been held on 13 and 14 May 2002 in Sydney to discuss the technical content of the paper.

The attached paper is intended to promote discussion and comment on the main pest and disease risk issues associated with the importation of non-viable bivalve molluscs. It identifies 52 pest and disease agents; of these 32 are proposed to be considered further in the IRA. The paper does not address risk management issues, as these will be addressed in a later consultation step, the draft IRA report. The panel will take into account stakeholder comments on the Technical Issues Paper as it develops the draft IRA report.

In addition to seeking specific technical comments on the Technical Issues Paper, Biosecurity Australia would like to hear from any stakeholders, either groups or individuals that wish to discuss the paper or the IRA process more generally. If sufficient interest is generated, a public meeting may be arranged.

Next Steps

I would appreciate receiving your comments, supported by scientific references if available, by 25 November 2002. The Risk Analysis Panel will consider all technical comments received and these will be taken into account in preparing the draft IRA report.

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 over).

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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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