



8 February 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/04

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the outcome of the first meeting of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand and notifies you of a change in the membership of the RAP.

In our PBPM 2002/01 of 10 January 2002 we advised you of the full membership of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of apples from New Zealand. That PBPM indicated that the first meeting of the RAP was scheduled for Thursday 17 January 2002. The purpose of this PBPM is to inform you of the outcomes of that meeting and to notify you of a change in the membership of the RAP.

We were deeply saddened to hear of Mike Kinsella's death, only a few days after the first RAP meeting. Mike was well known to many stakeholders through his long association with plant quarantine and his contribution to the RAP will be greatly missed. As a mark of his prodigious career, he was awarded the Farrer Memorial Medal in October 1998 *"in recognition of his outstanding contribution to agricultural science through involvement with the quarantine security of pests and diseases for the agricultural industry"*.

As a result of Mike's sudden death, we have considered the range and balance of skills among the remaining members. Following consultation with RAP members, Biosecurity Australia has decided that it will not seek a replacement for Mike at this stage. The panel membership will continue to be Bill Roberts (chair), Ian Armour, David Cartwright, Bill Hatton, Brian Stynes and Kent Williams.

At their first meeting, RAP members agreed on the importance of keeping stakeholders informed and asked that Biosecurity Australia circulate a summary of each of its meetings to stakeholders. Accordingly, the RAP's summary of its first meeting is at attachment 1 for your information. The key outcome of this meeting was for the RAP to develop a forward plan. The key steps the RAP intends to follow are:

- 1 Identify the issues raised in response to the draft IRA on which it will focus most of its effort.
- 2 Produce a Scientific Review Paper that responds to all issues raised.
- 3 Conduct workshops to discuss the major outstanding issues.
- 4 Analyse the issues, taking into account the comments and advice received, produce a revised draft IRA and distribute it to stakeholders for comment.
- 5 Continue the process as set out in the administrative framework for IRA.

The next RAP meeting will be held on 6&7 March 2002.

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant 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.

Consultation

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services at the following address.

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Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

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