



20 March 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/09

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the outcome of the second meeting of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand.

In our PBPM 2002/04 of 8 February 2002, we advised you of the outcome of the first meeting 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 second meeting of the RAP was scheduled for 6&7 March 2002. The purpose of this PBPM is to inform you of the outcomes of the second meeting.

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 second meeting is at attachment 1 for your information.

The key outcomes of this meeting were:

- 1 Agreement on an initial assessment of the issues raised in the inventory.
- 2 Development of an outline for the Scientific Review Paper.
- 3 Agreement that the analysis for fire blight should be as quantitative as possible, noting that further discussion of this would be required.
- 4 Tentative agreement to establish two technical working groups to assist the RAP in relation to arthropod and fungal pathogen issues.
- 5 Agreement that a first round of stakeholder workshops would discuss the risk analysis, with particular emphasis on fire blight and the areas where data are limited.

The next RAP meeting will be held on 16&17 April 2002. The scientific review paper is likely to be released soon after that meeting.

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.

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
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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>.

Bill Magee
A/g General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Meeting summary

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its second meeting on 6&7 March 2002. The members acknowledged the contribution that Mike Kinsella had made to the panel prior to his death in January.

The key outcomes of this meeting were:

- 1 Agreement on an initial assessment of the issues raised in the inventory. The issues were divided into three groups: i) major issues that the panel will need to consider further in this analysis, ii) less important issues in the context of the on-going assessment and iii) those issues that are out side the scope of the panel's work.
- 2 Development of an outline for the Scientific Review Paper. This paper will include a summary of major issues and how the RAP intends to progress them as well as a more detailed response to the remaining issues. To allow more in depth analysis of the major issues, it was agreed that the detail of the major issues would be addressed in the revised draft IRA.
- 3 Agreement that the analysis for fire blight should be as quantitative as possible, noting that further discussion would be required on this issue at next RAP meeting. Accordingly, issues relating to fire blight will continue to be addressed directly by the RAP rather than by a technical working group.
- 4 Tentative agreement to two technical working groups to assist the RAP in relation to arthropod and fungal pathogen issues. Kent Williams and David Cartwright will chair each group respectively.
- 5 Agreement that a first round of stakeholder workshops would discuss the risk analysis, with particular emphasis on fire blight and the areas where data are limited. The workshops will also focus on how the approach to the analysis can compensate for uncertainty created by limited data.

The next RAP meeting will be held on 16&17 April 2002. The scientific review paper is likely to be released soon after that meeting and will be followed by a series of workshops, beginning four weeks later.

NZ Apple RAP
14 March 2002