



4 July 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/31

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum advises stakeholders of the release of the scientific review paper for the Import Risk Analysis on New Zealand apples and provides further information regarding the stakeholder workshop.

The purpose of this PBPM is to advise stakeholders of the release of the scientific review paper, which has been produced as an additional step for the Import Risk Analysis of New Zealand apples. It also provides further information about the stakeholder workshop.

Scientific review paper

In our PBPM 2001/11 of 24 May 2001, we advised you of Biosecurity Australia's intention to produce a scientific review paper, as "*a step toward finalising an IRA that covers all major scientific issues thoroughly, and is based on the best available scientific evidence.*" This is an additional step to the process outlined in *The AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, and in response to comments by stakeholders, is aimed at improving the transparency of this IRA.

Following this, we advised you in PBPM 2001/22 of 8 October 2001, that Biosecurity Australia had decided to draw on additional scientific expertise by appointing a Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) to complete the import risk analysis (IRA) on New Zealand apples. The RAP considered the scientific review paper in detail at its second meeting and agreed that it would "... *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.*" (see PBPM 2002/09 of 20 March 2002.) To allow more in depth analysis of the major issues, the RAP also agreed "... *that the detail of the major issues would be addressed in the revised draft IRA.*"

The purpose of the scientific review paper is to provide information to stakeholders about this IRA. This information is intended to assist stakeholders contribute to the risk analysis process. Accordingly, we are not seeking comments on the scientific review paper, although as always comments are welcome at any stage of the process. Rather the RAP is holding a stakeholder workshop and will be inviting a range of stakeholders to participate.

The paper is available electronically on the AFFA website or from Plant Biosecurity, in either paper or electronic form. Contact details are provided below.



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Workshop

The next step in the process will be for the RAP to hold a stakeholder workshop. In PBPM 2001/22 of 8 October 2001, we sought feedback regarding how the proposed workshops should be arranged and run. Following consideration of this feedback and further discussions with certain stakeholders, the RAP has decided to hold one workshop at this stage of the process. This workshop will focus on the methodology, while further consultation after release of the revised draft IRA, will focus on other aspects of the risk analysis.

To facilitate attendance, the workshop will be held at the Tullamarine Airport Motor Inn, starting at approximately 10.30 am (coffee from 9.30 am) on Monday 22 July 2002 and concluding mid-afternoon the following day.

The members of the RAP are keen to ensure a workable discussion and therefore attendance needs to be restricted. In order to ensure the widest range of views are presented at the workshop, the RAP is consulting with representatives from the major stakeholder groups (eg the Australian Apple and Pear Growers Association Inc, the New Zealand Government and the nursery industry) regarding stakeholder participation.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To allow participants to provide input on important issues that need to be considered by the Risk Analysis Panel.
- To identify issues that need to be considered in analysing the risk pathways for entry and establishment of fire blight via trade in apples.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to meet the Risk Analysis Panel and understand the process that is being used to analyse the quarantine risks of apple importation.

A report of the workshop will be produced and stakeholders, especially those who are not involved, will also be welcome to make comments at that time.

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 1988*.

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 1982*.

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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