



23 April 2002

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/15

GENERIC IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON THE IMPORTATION OF FRESH PERSIMMONS

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the outcome of the first round of consultation regarding the generic Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of persimmons.

Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) 2002/02 of 29 January 2002 advised stakeholders of the commencement of a generic IRA on the importation of fresh persimmons and invited comments on the proposed scope of the analysis, the indicative timetable and the use of an in-house risk analysis team.

It was proposed that the IRA consider quarantine risks associated with pests and diseases of persimmons from countries that lodged specific import access requests, namely Israel, Korea and Japan and also review existing policy in regard to New Zealand and the USA. We proposed that, subject to no unforeseen difficulties, the analysis would take approximately two years. We also proposed that a team of technical experts from within Biosecurity Australia conduct the IRA.

The team leader for this IRA is Dr Adrian Harris, who currently is the Manager of the North Asia Team. Dr Harris will be drawing upon the expertise of Biosecurity Australia's pool of plant pathologists, entomologists, risk analysts, weed scientists, disinfestation specialists and quarantine operations specialists to conduct the IRA. All of the in-house specialists have been involved to varying degrees in one or more of the risk analyses for the following commodities: table grape, apple, apple & pear budwood, bulbs, longan and lychee, mango, mushroom, sweet corn, maize, durian, ya pear, Korean pear, timber, pineapple, papaya and citrus.

Executive Manager's decision

One comment was received in response to PBPM 2002/02. Following consideration of stakeholder comments, the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia has confirmed the scope, indicative timetable and approach as set out above.

Next steps

As previously advised, the review of the IRA process, as used for all IRAs, is well advanced. One of the issues that has arisen from the review is the need to extend

the opportunity for stakeholders to appeal at an early stage in all IRAs. The current draft of the IRA process, circulated in September 2001, provides for stakeholders to appeal to the Deputy Secretary the decision of the Executive Manager. Stakeholders must give reasons for their appeal. Appeals can be sent to the following address by close of business on **Friday 24 May 2002**:

IRA appeals
Deputy Secretary
AFFA
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

The Deputy Secretary will take into account the following matters in making a determination on any appeal:

- . whether the scope of the IRA is reasonable (with regard to the proposal or application, and any current related work) and is an efficient use of public resources;
- . whether the timetable will allow adequate opportunity for stakeholder input;
- . whether the nominated IRA team membership will provide appropriate expertise to consider all relevant scientific issues; and
- . any other matter that the Deputy Secretary may think is relevant.

Confidentiality

Respondents 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 the Technical and Administrative Services section at the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Biosecurity Australia
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

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

Brian Stynes
General Manager
Plant Biosecurity