



7 January 2003

## PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/02

### IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS –APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the outcomes of the eighth and ninth meetings of the risk analysis panel (RAP) for the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of fresh apples from New Zealand.

In PBPM 2002/41 of 9 September 2002, we advised you of the outcomes of the seventh meeting of the RAP for the IRA on the importation of apples from New Zealand. That PBPM indicated that the next meeting of the RAP was scheduled for 23-25 October 2002. The purpose of this PBPM is to inform you of the outcomes of the two RAP meetings that have been held since our last advice.

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 summaries of its eighth and ninth meetings are at attachments 1 and 2 respectively for your information.

At the eighth meeting, which was held on 23-24 October, the RAP discussed the likelihoods of establishment and spread of *Erwinia amylovora*, as well as continuing its discussion of the unit that it will use in its analysis and the outcomes of the workshop held earlier in the year. The meeting also considered simplified pathways, based on those developed at the workshop, for use in its analysis. Comments from workshop participants were also considered and have been incorporated. This report is now available from the Plant Biosecurity website ([www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity](http://www.affa.gov.au/plantbiosecurity)) or from Technical and Administrative Services.

At the ninth meeting, which was held on 4-5 December, the RAP discussed the assessment of fire blight risk, including the history of spread of this disease and factors involved in the assessment of consequences. The meeting also began consideration of the range of available risk management measures for *Erwinia amylovora*.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for 30-31 January 2003.

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.

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General Manager  
Plant Biosecurity

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### Meeting summary – RAP 8

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its eighth meeting on 23 & 24 October 2002. The approval of the report from the previous RAP meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

The RAP held further discussions on the unit for use in its risk analysis. The RAP discussed how some aspects identified at the Melbourne workshop especially in regard to waste disposal have been incorporated into a draft risk analysis methodology for uncooked pig meat and agreed to adopt a similar method for apples. A decision was made to prepare a draft methodology section for consideration by the RAP. The RAP approved the detailed scenario pathways, which were finalised by incorporating comments by stakeholders that attended the Melbourne workshop. The meeting considered a draft simplified importation and distribution scenarios for fruit and trash, which incorporated all the features in the detailed scenarios in the risk assessment. The RAP discussed the likely proportion of waste discarded under each disposal method and the survival, multiplication and the transfer of *E. amylovora* under each method. The technical information pertaining to the likelihood of the establishment and spread of *E. amylovora* in Australia was discussed. The chairs of the provisional technical working groups on arthropod and fungal issues provided a status report on the respective activities of each group.

Two members of the RAP who visited orchards and packinghouses in Hawke's Bay in New Zealand in September 2002 presented their observations. An officer from Biosecurity Australia attending the meeting of the WTO panel on US/Japan dispute on apples with third parties reported from Geneva. WTO dispute proceedings are confidential.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled from 4 to 5 December 2002.

NZ Apple RAP  
October 2002

### Meeting summary – RAP 9

The risk analysis panel (RAP) for the New Zealand apple import risk analysis (IRA) held its ninth meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2002. Reports from the previous two RAP meetings were approved and will be placed on the public file.

The RAP continued its discussion of a range of issues relating to the assessment of fire blight risk, including the history of spread of this disease and factors involved in the assessment of consequences. The meeting also began consideration of the range of available risk management measures for *Erwinia amylovora*. This involved a review of those included in the October 2000 draft IRA. The chairs of the provisional technical working groups exploring arthropod and fungal issues provided a status report on the respective activities of each group.

The meeting also discussed several items of correspondence, and a meeting between Biosecurity Australia and Apple & Pear Australia Limited (APAL) regarding APAL's new project officer responsible for collating information on the IRA.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for 30-31 January 2003.

NZ Apple RAP  
December 2002