



27 February 2004

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/04

FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR FRESH LONGAN AND LYCHEE FRUIT FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THAILAND

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum notifies stakeholders of the release of the final import risk analysis (IRA) report for the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand.

In response to import access requests from the People's Republic of China and Thailand, Biosecurity Australia has conducted an import risk analysis (IRA) on a proposal to import fresh longan (*Dimocarpus longan* Lour.) and lychee (*Litchi chinensis* Sonn.) fruit to Australia.

The Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia has recommended that the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit for human consumption into Australia from the People's Republic of China and Thailand be permitted subject to the application of phytosanitary measures. These phytosanitary measures are outlined in the attached executive summary from the final IRA report and further detail is given in the 'import conditions' section of the final IRA report. These requirements maintain Australia's appropriate level of protection and accord with Australia's international rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

The final IRA report is available from the Departmental website at www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity or copies can be requested in either hard copy or CD ROM format from Technical and Administrative Services at the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6272 5094
Facsimile: (02) 6272 3307
E-mail: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

Stakeholders may appeal against the final IRA report if there was a significant deviation from the process set out in the Import Risk Analysis Handbook 2003 that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder, or if a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered. Appeals should be sent by close of business 29 March 2004 to the Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP), at the following address:

The Manager
IRAAP
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Facsimile: (02) 6272 4600
E-mail: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

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, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services.

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the Internet at www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY- LONGAN AND LYCHEE FINAL IRA

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) has considered the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit from the People's Republic of China and Thailand. An Import Risk Analysis (IRA) was initiated in April 2000. In October 2000, Biosecurity Australia, a group within DAFF, was established to take responsibility for assessing the quarantine risks associated with commodity imports. Biosecurity Australia circulated the Technical Issues Paper in March 2003 and the Draft Import Risk Analysis Report in August 2003.

This *Final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report* contains the following:

- Australia's framework for biosecurity policy and for import risk analysis, the international framework for trade in plants and plant products, Australia's current policy for importation of longan and lychee and information on the background to this IRA;
- an outline of the methodology and results of pest categorisation, risk assessment and risk management;
- import conditions for fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand;
- further steps in the IRA process; and
- a synopsis of stakeholder comments received on the Draft IRA Report and Biosecurity Australia's response.

Detailed risk assessment was conducted for those pests that were categorised as quarantine pests to determine an unrestricted risk estimate for each organism. For those pests for which the risk was considered to be above Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP), risk management measures have been developed. Consultation with the General Administration for Quality Supervision and Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China (AQSIQ) and Thailand's Department of Agriculture (DOA), and input from stakeholders on the draft import conditions has resulted in the adoption of a set of risk management measures that form the basis of import conditions and will maintain Australia's ALOP for fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand.

The risk assessment identified eight arthropod pests associated with the importation of longan and lychee from China and Thailand that require risk management measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The risks associated with the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand will be managed by applying a combination of risk management measures and phytosanitary procedures, specifically:

- registration of export orchards and packinghouses;
- option of cold disinfestation treatment/vapour heat treatment for *Bactrocera cucurbitae* and *B. dorsalis* (fruit flies);
- option of cold disinfestation treatment/approved orchard control program and inspection for freedom from *Conopomorpha sinensis* (litchi fruit borer);
- inspection for freedom from mealybugs and soft scales;
- targeted pre-export inspection by the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO);

- packing, labelling and storage compliance;
- phytosanitary certification by the NPPO; and
- targeted on-arrival quarantine inspection and clearance by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

Details on the risk management measures, including their objectives, and the resulting import conditions are provided within this final IRA report.

To assist the reader this final IRA report is presented in two separate parts. Part A includes key components of the risk assessment, the risk management measures, the import conditions and a summary of the stakeholder comments on the draft IRA report and Biosecurity Australia's response. Part B contains detailed technical components of the risk assessment.

This final IRA report has now been released to stakeholders, together with a Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) containing the Executive Manager of Biosecurity Australia's recommendation for a policy determination. The Executive Manager has recommended that the importation of fresh longan and lychee fruit from China and Thailand be permitted subject to the application of phytosanitary measures as specified in the 'Import Conditions' section of this document.

Stakeholders have 30 days from the publication of this document to lodge an appeal in writing, before the final policy determination is made by the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine.