



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

18 April 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/11

**IMPORTED PIG MEAT – SCIENTIFIC REVIEW OF POST-WEANING
MULTISYSTEMIC WASTING SYNDROME**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) advises stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia, with the assistance of a Scientific Expert Group (SEG), has completed a review of recent developments regarding the pig disease, post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS). The review concluded that the level of quarantine risk of PMWS in imported pig meat has not changed from that described in the February 2004 import risk analysis (IRA) report and that the risk management measures recommended continue to address this risk consistent with Australia's Appropriate Level of Protection.

Biosecurity Australia has reviewed whether the level of quarantine risk in relation to PMWS has changed since the completion of the final IRA report of pig meat in February 2004. Biosecurity Australia established a SEG, chaired by Professor Colin Wilks from Melbourne University, to review any new scientific knowledge or understanding of PMWS published since the completion of the IRA. The SEG also considered evidence in relation to PMWS that was presented during legal proceedings challenging the pig meat policy determination, including the Federal Court's views of that evidence.

The SEG sought opinion and advice from a range of sources, including international experts and researchers with experience with PMWS. The SEG concluded that the level of quarantine risk had not changed and the risk management measures of cooking/curing processes, removal of head, bones and major lymph nodes, address the risk. A copy of the SEG report is at Attachment A.

Biosecurity Australia has also considered reports of more recent PMWS incidents in North America. The severity of these incidents appears to be similar to that experienced in the United Kingdom. The IRA took account of the United Kingdom experience.

Biosecurity Australia will continue to monitor developments in relation to the scientific knowledge and understanding of PMWS. The situation in Canada/North America will also continue to be closely monitored, noting that further epidemiological studies are being conducted.

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should contact the officer listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the stakeholder distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the internet at www.biosecurityaustralia.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 Biosecurity Australia 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*.

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