



**Australian Government**  
**Biosecurity Australia**

1 August 2006

**BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/21**

**APPLE IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS UPDATE**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders that the draft *Final Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand* has been referred to the Eminent Scientists Group for review.

Biosecurity Australia, with the assistance of an expert Import Risk Analysis (IRA) team, has completed its consideration of stakeholder comments submitted in response to the Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand. This draft report was issued on 1 December 2005 with the comment period closing on 30 March 2006. Biosecurity Australia received 40 submissions and has subsequently held discussions with a number of stakeholders to ensure a complete understanding of relevant issues.

A draft final report has now been referred to the independent Eminent Scientists Group (ESG). The role of the ESG is to ensure that Biosecurity Australia has taken stakeholder comments properly into account in finalising the risk analysis and policy recommendations. The ESG has up to 60 days to undertake its review.

Biosecurity Australia will take into account the recommendations of the ESG in producing a Final Import Risk Analysis Report. The report, which is open to formal appeal, will then be published.

Following any appeal process (and implementation of appeal outcomes, if required) a final report and recommendations will be provided to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, who will then make a quarantine policy determination.

Biosecurity Australia intends to complete the import risk analysis in a timely fashion, giving full consideration to the issues raised in submissions. The process of considering stakeholder submissions, eminent scientist review, formal appeal period and final policy determination is likely to be concluded towards the end of 2006.

**Consultation**

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available from our website [www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au](http://www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au).

## **Confidentiality**

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to policy memorandums will be publicly available.

Comments 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 their 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.

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