



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

1 September 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/27
IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS PUBLIC FILES - IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS FOR
ACCESS BY STAKEHOLDERS

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum is to advise stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has improved access to import risk analysis public files. Documents will in future be made available electronically on Biosecurity Australia's website.

Biosecurity Australia maintains public files for import risk analyses (IRAs). The files contain printed copies of non-confidential submissions and other documentation relating to IRAs.

Public files are held at Biosecurity Australia's office in Canberra. Stakeholders have been able to make arrangements to view and copy the material held on these files during business hours. Since 2003 electronic versions of some relevant public file material have also been made available through our website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Biosecurity Australia has now improved arrangements for public files by making our website the main access point for public file information. Electronic images of documents that previously could only be viewed on the file in Canberra are now to be available via the website. This improvement was implemented with effect from 1 July 2006.

Printed copies of public files will continue to be maintained and be accessible at the Canberra office. At this stage, documents prior to 1 July 2006 will not be placed on the website retrospectively.

The public files, including the website version, for IRAs may contain non-confidential material such as:

- background to the import proposal
- scope of the IRA
- documents circulated publicly by Biosecurity Australia during the IRA process
- formal membership of any specialist IRA team
- technical submissions, where relevant
- stakeholder comments and submissions where stakeholders have not maintained a claim of confidentiality
- approved summaries of IRA team meetings
- determinations and decisions.

The public file will not contain material that is restricted by legislation, such as copyright material, or material considered exempt under the provisions of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* or information protected under the *Privacy Act 1988*.

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. Anyone wishing to receive future communications on this matter should notify the contact officer.

John Cahill
Chief Executive

Contact officer:	John Wilson
Telephone no:	02 6272 3811
Facsimile no:	02 6272 3307
E-mail	john.wilson@daff.gov.au