



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

8 November 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/34

APPLE IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS UPDATE

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum informs stakeholders of the status of Biosecurity Australia's import risk analysis (IRA) of the proposal to import apples from New Zealand. The Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) has concluded its review of the draft final IRA report that took account of stakeholders' comments. Biosecurity Australia is now finalising the IRA report and expects to release it by the end of November 2006.

On 31 July 2006, Biosecurity Australia formally referred the draft final Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand to the ESG. The role of the ESG is to ensure that Biosecurity Australia has taken stakeholder comments properly into account in finalising the import risk analysis and quarantine policy recommendations. The ESG has submitted its findings to Australia's Director of Quarantine and to Biosecurity Australia.

Biosecurity Australia is now finalising the IRA report and policy recommendations, taking account of the ESG report. The final IRA report, which is open to formal appeal, is expected to be released by the end of November 2006. The ESG report will be released at the same time.

Stakeholders will have 30 days from the publication of the final IRA report to lodge an appeal in writing to the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel (IRAAP) – a body independent of Biosecurity Australia – on the basis of:

- a significant deviation from the process set out in the Import Risk Analysis Handbook that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder; and/or
- a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

In lodging appeals, stakeholders are required to submit reasons for their appeal.

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

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.

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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Chief Executive

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