



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

30 November 2006

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2006/37

**RELEASE OF FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT
FOR APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum notifies stakeholders of the release of the final Import Risk Analysis Report for Apples from New Zealand. Stakeholders have until 12 January 2007 to lodge an appeal in response to the final IRA report. Stakeholders are informed that the report of the Eminent Scientists Group has also been published on the Biosecurity Australia website.

Biosecurity Australia has now finalised the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) report and policy recommendations for the importation of apples from New Zealand into Australia. The report was issued by the Chief Executive of Biosecurity Australia on 30 November 2006.

The issuing of this final report follows consideration of stakeholder submissions and comments on an earlier draft report that was issued on 1 December 2005. This consideration has also included a review by an Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) to ensure that stakeholder comments have been taken properly into account. The ESG report to Australia's Director of Quarantine in response to its review has now also been published on Biosecurity Australia's website.

Stakeholders are able to lodge an appeal in response to the final report. Stakeholders will have until 12 January 2007 to lodge an appeal in writing with the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel – a body independent of Biosecurity Australia.– on one or both of the following grounds:

- 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
- a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

The appeal period of some six weeks, compared with the usual 30 days, takes account of the seasonal holiday period that falls within the appeal time and the Chair of the Appeals Panel has extended the time accordingly.

In lodging appeals, stakeholders must give reasons for their appeal.

The Appeals Panel normally has up to 45 days to consider its findings and report to Australia's Director of Quarantine. If there is no appeal, or once any appeals are resolved, the process is complete and the recommended policy will be submitted to the Director of Quarantine for determination.

Appeals should be submitted to:

IRAAP Secretariat
Corporate Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Facsimile: (02) 6272 4506
E-mail: IRAAP@daff.gov.au

The *Final IRA report for apples from New Zealand, Parts A, B and C* and the ESG report is available from the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. A hard copy of the document can be requested from Biosecurity Australia as follows:

Technical and Administrative Services	Telephone: (02) 6272 5094
Plant Biosecurity	Facsimile: (02) 6272 3307
Biosecurity Australia	E-mail: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au
GPO Box 858	
CANBERRA ACT 2601	

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.

JOHN CAHILL
Chief Executive

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