



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

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BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2008/13

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS FOR BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES –
STATUS REPORT**

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) informs stakeholders of the current status of the import risk analysis examining the proposal to import Cavendish bananas from the Philippines.

The stakeholder comment period on the revised draft import risk analysis (IRA) report for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines closed 29 June 2007. The expert IRA team has since met regularly to consider the twenty one stakeholder submissions that were received on the draft report. A draft final IRA report will soon be forwarded to the independent Eminent Scientists Group for review. A further BAA will be issued at that time.

Since the last update on this IRA was issued to stakeholders the composition of the IRA team has changed. Since 2005 the IRA team has comprised:

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| Dr Brian Stynes | Biosecurity Australia (Plant Pathologist) - Chair |
| Dr Rob Allen | External member (Plant Pathologist) |
| Mr Bob Paton | External member (Entomologist) |
| Mr David Peasley | External member (Horticulturist) |
| Mr Mike Robbins | Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (Quarantine operations expert) |
| Dr Sharan Singh | Biosecurity Australia (Plant Pathologist) |

The IRA team has been supported by additional expertise as required, including in plant pathology, entomology, statistics and modelling.

I regret to advise that Dr Rob Allen has recently resigned from the IRA team due to ill health. He has made substantial contributions in his areas of speciality and these contributions are being reflected in the final report. Biosecurity Australia acknowledges and thanks Dr Allen for his significant contribution to the development of the IRA and wishes him well with his future health.

Mr Bob Paton is also taking a period of extended leave to travel. However, he formally remains a member of the IRA team and will continue to contribute to the final IRA report.

Dr Singh was a member of the IRA team as a result of his role in Biosecurity Australia. Dr Singh is now employed in another area of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, outside Biosecurity Australia, and has not continued in the role as a member of the IRA team.

As the IRA report is in the final stages of development, I do not propose to add to the membership of the IRA team or replace Dr Allen at this time. Biosecurity Australia will continue to provide significant, dedicated, scientific expertise and resources to support the work of the IRA team.

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website at www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. Biosecurity Australia welcomes any comments on matters relevant to the issues raised in this BAA. Contact details are:

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