



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

Ref: 2008/06401

26 February 2010

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2010/03
IMPORTATION OF ZOO BOVIDS FROM NEW ZEALAND

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) informs stakeholders that Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has determined a policy for the importation of zoo bovids into Australian zoos from New Zealand. Importation of zoo bovids can be permitted, subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified in the *Quarantine conditions for the importation of zoo bovids into Australian zoos from New Zealand*. The policy will be taken into account by decision makers when considering import applications for zoo bovids in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* and *Quarantine Proclamation 1988* as amended.

A draft policy review report, including proposed quarantine requirements, was circulated for stakeholder comment in November 2009 (BAA 2009/27). The review has been undertaken in response to requests from member zoos of the Zoo Aquarium Association, formerly the Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks and Aquaria (ARAZPA), to import several species of zoo bovids to boost declining breeding stocks. As some suitable animals are available in New Zealand, the review has considered the quarantine risks associated with the importation of zoo bovids from New Zealand (Auckland Zoo, Hamilton Zoo, Orana Wildlife Park and Wellington Zoo). Zoos will be subject to approval by Australia prior to export. Zoo bovids are defined as mammals of the Family Bovidae kept in confinement in approved zoos.

The draft policy review recommended risk management measures for Johne's disease and bovine tuberculosis. The draft recommended that the imported animals be certified as coming from zoos where no cases of Johne's disease or bovine tuberculosis have been diagnosed in the premises of origin during the past five years. It was further recommended that the animals for import, and each other bovid with which it has been in contact in the previous 12 months, be tested within 30 days prior to export, for bovine tuberculosis infection with negative results.

Stakeholder comments were received from the Zoo Aquarium Association. The Association raised logistical difficulties with the requirement for tuberculosis testing of susceptible in-contact animals, as well as animals for export. In proposing alternative arrangements, the Association also suggested a further tuberculosis test, BOVIGAM[®] gamma interferon test.

Biosecurity Australia has re-considered the requirement for testing in-contact animals, and taking into account the requirement for certification of premises freedom and that importation is from zoos that have been approved for export by Australia, has concluded that these provide appropriate assurances and that testing of susceptible in-contact animals is not necessary. Certification of premises freedom is based on absence of clinical signs and no evidence of infection on routine necropsy of all animals that die. The control and eradication program for bovine tuberculosis in New Zealand provides further confidence. The abovementioned New Zealand zoos all advise that

they can attest that there have been no cases of tuberculosis in their collections for at least five years. In addition, Australia has extensive contact with, and a high level of confidence in, New Zealand's government quarantine authorities and zoos. The requirement for testing of in-contact animals for tuberculosis has therefore been deleted. The BOVIGAM® test has been added to the intradermal tuberculin test to be undertaken 30 days prior to export, with negative result to both. The conditions have also been clarified with inclusion of a statement that the zoological garden or wildlife park has been approved by Australia prior to export.

The policy review has been finalised and Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has now determined the policy to permit the entry of zoo bovids from New Zealand into Australian zoos. Importation can be permitted subject to the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the application of sanitary measures as specified in the *Quarantine conditions for the importation of zoo bovids into Australian zoos from New Zealand* February 2010 – available from Biosecurity Australia's website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. These measures are designed to limit quarantine risk to a level which is acceptably low, consistent with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine.

The policy determination and related information have been forwarded to the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS). AQIS will take the determination and policy advice into account when considering applications for import permits.

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 listed below. Alternatively, if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please advise the contact officer.

Information on import risk assessments being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website.



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