

REPORT FROM MEETING HELD IN MELBOURNE 25 JULY 2000 WITH:

- **THE POME FRUIT INDUSTRY'S TECHNICAL COMMITTEE FOR NEW ZEALAND APPLES IRA, AND**

Representing AQIS: Brian Stynes, Assistant Director, Plant Quarantine Policy Branch and Tom Parnell

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The meeting was held at David Pullar's request and included presentations by Drs van der Zwet and Wimilajeewa. The presentations were similar to those given to AFFA staff in Canberra recently. However, Dr Stynes was attending a meeting interstate and not able to attend.

Mr Pullar indicated that the depth of thinking that AQIS has done on fire blight and fruit is evident from the discussions he has had. He also advised that this group had held discussions with about 12 industry groups and had been impressed with the level of knowledge about fire blight. In the margins Mr Pullar indicated that Dr van der Zwet's answers to similar questions had been variable depending on the context in which they were raised. While this view was supported by separate discussions with state officials, raising it is possibly a strategy aimed at distancing the AAPGA from comments Dr van der Zwet made in Canberra that there is an "infinitesimally low" chance of a discarded infested fruit initiating a fire blight outbreak.

Mr Pullar also advised that their remit is to look at a range of issues regarding fire blight risks, not just the IRA on apples and indicated that they would be monitoring existing pome fruit import protocols and studying current barrier controls. He is also well aware of the need for consistency in measures and will be reviewing the draft IRA on apple and pear propagating material.

Two key issues emerged regarding the risk assessment for fire blight.

- Concern over calyx infestation of fruit from apparently healthy orchards.
- The effect that volume of trade will have on risk.