

Report from a meeting with representatives from state agriculture departments to discuss the draft NZ apple IRA, 20-21 July 2000

The meeting was chaired by Brian Stynes and a list of attendees is attached. Also attached is a copy of the draft program. The meeting considered much of the detail of the IRA, with the focus being on the risk assessment methodology; and fire blight risk assessment and management. The discussions considered all quarantine pests, in the context of Australia's WTO obligations, and proposed a paper to go to SCARM through Plant Health Committee, regarding future arrangements for more formal involvement in the IRA process. Feedback from participants was that the meeting was very valuable and the group was enthusiastic about further involvement.

Specific issues discussed relating to the apple IRA were:

1. There was concern that the qualitative risk assessment methodology could be misinterpreted as it does not explicitly take into account the effect that volume of trade would have on the assessed risks.
 - It was agreed that there needed to be a quantitative risk assessment done for fire blight and included in the draft IRA as an appendix. Consideration should also be given to include some of the major insect pests as well.
 - AQIS's preferred approach is to undertake a Monte Carlo analysis. However, Queensland proposed a binomial probability model as the basis for such an assessment and there was general agreement on estimates for input into this model. The meeting agreed to consider this issue further.
 - The other concern raised over the methodology was the underlying basis for the probability values used and the meeting proposed that AQIS consider rescaling them.
2. The risk management strategies being proposed for fire blight were also considered and minor modifications suggested.
3. The meeting also considered risk assessment and management for each of the other quarantine pests. The most significant issue was the view that the states would be more comfortable if fumigation were to be required for several of the arthropod pests. This approach would go directly against the position stated in AQIS's 1998 IRA. A 'systems approach' was suggested as a possible alternative. However, it was agreed that this should be considered by the group and discussed further.
4. The issue of several pests which occur both in Eastern Australia and New Zealand but not in Western Australia was also discussed. It was agreed that these pests need to be considered in detail and Agriculture WA agreed to assist.
5. The need for a SCARM decision on state and territory involvement in the IRA process was also discussed. A model for how this should be done for plant based commodities was discussed. The proposal was that this would follow the incursion management consultative committee approach and be chaired by AQIS. Queensland and Western Australia undertook to work up a draft based on the paper that has been prepared for Veterinary Committee.

Attendees

NSW Agriculture	Bob Paton, Policy Officer Les Penrose, Senior Research Scientist
Victorian Department of Natural Resources & Environment	Pat Sharkey, Manager Peter Merriman, Manager
Qld Department of Primary Industries	Ken Priestly (Fri only), General Manager Rob Allen, Manager
Agriculture Western Australia	Rowland Gwynne, Manager Mark Stuart, Policy Officer
SA Department of Primary Industries, Water and Environment	David Cartwright, Manager
Tasmanian Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries	Margaret Williams, Manager
NT Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries	Decided not to sent a rep. However, Roger Smith wants them to be involved in developing any general approach to IRA input.
AQIS	Brian Stynes, Assistant Director Sharan Singh, A/g Senior Manager Tom Parnell, Manager

Draft Program**Thursday 20 July**

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| 1.30-1.50 pm | Introduction
Aims and objectives
- Brian Stynes |
| 1.50-2.30 | Background to draft IRA paper
Explanation of excerpts
- Tom Parnell |
| 2.30-5.30 | Consideration of IRA excerpts
- All
- Tea/coffee available |
| Evening | No formal arrangements. However, there should be plenty of options for dining in one or several groups. |

Friday 21 July

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| 8.30-9.00 | Discussion of 'state' based expertise and how AQIS can tap into it |
| 9.00-10.00 | Consideration of pest list |
| 10.00-10.15 | Morning tea |
| 10.15-12.30 | Consideration of risk assessment |
| 12.30-1.15 | Lunch |
| 1.15-3.00 | Consideration of risk management options |
| 3.00-3.15 | Afternoon tea |
| 3.15-4.30 | General discussion |
| 4.30-5.00 | Concluding remarks
- summing up and agreement on future direction |