

Dear Stakeholder

## **IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON SWEETCORN SEED FOR SOWING FROM THE USA**

In our letter of 9 September 1998, we advised you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will conduct an import risk analysis (IRA) on the importation of sweetcorn seed (*Zea Mays* L.) for sowing from the United States, with particular reference to Idaho, for the purpose of field sowing in Australia.

### **The process**

AQIS will conduct the risk analysis using the IRA process outlined in the recently published *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which is currently being distributed to stakeholders. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed approach to the risk analysis.

AQIS considers that the risk analysis on the importation of sweetcorn seed (*Zea Mays* L.) for sowing from the United States should be undertaken using the routine IRA process outlined in the IRA Handbook.

### **Timeframe for completing the Risk Analysis**

We estimate that the risk analysis will take approximately twelve months to complete using the routine process. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect the draft IRA paper to be released in March 1999. Stakeholders will be kept informed if there are any significant delays or variations to the proposed timeframe.

### **Request for comments**

You are invited to comment on the proposal to conduct the IRA using the routine process. Your comments will be taken into consideration by AQIS in finalising its position on the type of process to be followed. AQIS will accept written submissions on this issue until the close of business on Thursday 19 November 1998. Responses should be forwarded to:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

If you would like your name removed from the mailing list for this IRA, please contact the IRA Secretariat at the above address, telephone Marianne Taylor on (02) 6272 5094 or email [marianne.taylor@dpie.gov.au](mailto:marianne.taylor@dpie.gov.au)

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the review will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in the review. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the Privacy Act. The contents of a 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.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine  
Director  
Policy and International Division

20 October 1998