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Enquiries: S. Tuten  
Date: 24 March 2006

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Plant Biosecurity  
Biosecurity Australia

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Ms Louise van Meurs  
General Manager  
Plant Biosecurity  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Louise

**COMMENTS ON THE REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR  
APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND**

I refer to Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum 2005/20 dated 1 December 2005 inviting comments on the revised draft import risk analysis report for apples from New Zealand.

As the revised draft IRA does not recommend the entry of New Zealand apples into Western Australia, the Department of Agriculture Western Australia (the Department) has not considered the document in depth. However, should a situation arise in future resulting in a review of the prohibition, the Department will need to consider existing policy and this IRA in its entirety. The Department will not be able to support any proposal to import apples into Western Australia until all concerns and identified issues have been addressed.

The Department would like to draw Biosecurity Australia's attention to recent information advising that wheat bug (*Nysius huttoni*) has been introduced to Europe (Netherlands and Belgium) where it is suspected to have arrived accidentally with shipments from New Zealand. The European Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) advises that *N. huttoni* is reported as being a contaminating pest often found on apple fruit packages exported from New Zealand. This information may have a bearing upon how this quarantine pest is considered.

If you have any queries please contact Simone Tuten on [stuten@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:stuten@agric.wa.gov.au) or (08) 9368 3434.

Yours sincerely

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
(BIOSECURITY AND RESEARCH)

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