



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



5 February 2001

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/05

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: IMPORTATION OF HORSES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) is to advise stakeholders that the import risk analysis (IRA) for the importation of horses from the Republic of South Africa has recommenced.

Currently Australia does not allow the direct importation of horses from the Republic of South Africa. In 1997 Biosecurity Australia (formerly the policy arm of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service - AQIS) notified stakeholders of the commencement of an IRA on the importation of horses from the Republic of South Africa. The IRA is being conducted as a routine analysis.

The IRA was placed on hold due to other work priorities, in particular the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and the occurrence of African Horse Sickness in the surveillance zone of the Western Cape District of the Republic of South Africa in March - April 1999. Nonetheless throughout this period Biosecurity Australia has monitored the equine disease situation in South Africa and horse exports from South Africa, in particular those to the European Union.

This memorandum advises stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia has recommenced the IRA on the importation of horses from the Republic of South Africa. Biosecurity Australia proposes to consider all relevant diseases of horses, with particular reference to diseases of horses in South Africa. This will include but not be limited to African Horse Sickness, Equine Encephalosis, dourine and piroplasmosis. Biosecurity Australia will conduct the process according to procedures set out under the *IRA Process Handbook* which is currently under review and available on the internet through the following link:

http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/iraoverview.html

The next step is the release of the draft IRA report which is anticipated to be circulated to stakeholders towards the end of the year. The timing is subject to the availability of information that is still to be obtained on some of the diseases exotic to Australia.

In the meantime submissions from stakeholders on issues relevant to this IRA are welcome.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on these matters. Enquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

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Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of a respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the 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.

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