



4 January 2001

**BIOSECURITY
AUSTRALIA**

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2001/01

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – IMPORTATION OF BANANAS
FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to advise you of the outcome of the second round of consultation on the import risk analysis (IRA) concerning the importation of bananas from the Philippines.

In our PBPM 2000/22 of 17 October 2000, stakeholders were invited to provide written comments on the proposed Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) membership, the scope and the timing of this IRA. The responses received have now been considered by Biosecurity Australia (BA).

Stakeholders who provided comments raised concerns regarding the scope of the IRA and whether the IRA could be completed within the estimated timeframe of 18-24 months. These issues will be referred to the final RAP for consideration in the preparation of the Issues Paper.

While stakeholders did not nominate any specific candidates for inclusion on the RAP panel, concerns were raised about the lack of representation from the broader industry sector. Although recognising the technical competence of the panel, stakeholders were also concerned that the panel was solely comprised of Commonwealth and State government representatives. One stakeholder suggested that we contact key industry players to find a suitable candidate to satisfy these concerns.

Plant Biosecurity staff canvassed a number of organisations including the Horticultural Research and Development Corporation (HRDC), the Queensland Fruit and Vegetable Growers (QFVG), Queensland Department of Primary Industry (QDPI) and other interested parties to find a suitable candidate. While there were a number of eminently qualified nominations BA needs to ensure that the successful candidate meets the criteria of having a knowledge of industry while having no conflict of interest.

Through contact with various organisations and after discussion with a number of candidates, Mr David Peasley, a horticulturist with 30 years experience in a range of horticultural fruit, and former leader of the HRDC National Banana Plant Health

improvement project from 1993-1998 was considered suitable for inclusion as a member of the RAP. A copy of his curriculum vitae is provided at Attachment A.

The final panel membership is:

Name	Organisation	Position
Dr Sharan Singh (Chair)	Plant Biosecurity AFFA	A/g Senior Manager
Dr Rob Allen	Queensland Department of Primary Industries	Principal Policy Officer (Plant Health)
Dr Bryan Cantrell	Queensland Department of Primary Industries	Principal Policy Officer (Plant Health)
Mr Bob Paton	NSW Agriculture	Policy Officer Market Access
Mr Mike Robbins	Animal and Plant Programs AQIS	Manager
Mr David Peasley	David Peasley Horticultural Services	Consultant

Stakeholders now have fifteen days to appeal the Deputy Secretary's determination in relation to the scope, timing, panel membership and approach for this IRA. Appeals should be sent to the Director of Quarantine at the following address by the close of business 19 January 2001.

Mr Michael Taylor
 Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine
 Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601

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*. The AQIS import risk analysis process, as documented in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, does not provide for extensions to the formal consultation stages.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the IRA Secretariat at the address below.

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
 Plant Biosecurity
 Biosecurity Australia
 Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
 GPO Box 858
 CANBERRA ACT 2601
 Tel: (02) 6272 5094
 Fax: (02) 6272 3307
 Email: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au

Information on all IRAs being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the AFFA web page at http://www.affa.gov.au/docs/market_access/biosecurity/plhome1.html

BA expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to this consultation phase.

Sharan Singh
Acting General Manager
Plant Biosecurity

Contact: Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Telephone no: 02 6272 5094
Facsimile no: 02 6272 3307
E-mail: plantbiosec@affa.gov.au