



10 May 2004

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/07

PIG MEAT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

APPEAL OUTCOME AND POLICY DETERMINATION

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders that the Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel (IRAAP) has considered the six appeals on the *Final Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report* of pig meat. No appeals were upheld. The Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has now made a final policy determination.

Biosecurity Australia released the Final *IRA Report* of pig meat on 19 February 2004 with a 30-day appeal period. This provided the opportunity for stakeholders to lodge an appeal if it was considered the IRA process was not conducted according to the IRA Handbook or that a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

Appeals were received and the IRAAP was subsequently formed, chaired by Mr Murray Rogers, Chair of the Quarantine and Export Advisory Council, to consider the appeals. Other members of the IRAAP were

- Dr Cliff Samson, Executive Manager, Rural Policy and Innovation, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (the Department)
- Dr David Adams, Senior Principal Research Scientist with the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the Department;
- Mr Andrew Inglis, Member, Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council; and
- Professor Ivan Caple, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Melbourne.

ABPM 2004/06 of 29 March 2004 advised stakeholders that 7 appeals were received. The IRAAP Secretariat contacted one of the respondents and clarified that their correspondence was not intended to constitute an appeal. The IRAAP considered the issues raised in the six appeals and unanimously reached a series of findings disallowing all aspects of the appeals.

Given the IRAAP's findings, Mr Michael Taylor, the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine (and Secretary of the Department) has made a policy determination (attached) confirming the recommended import conditions set out in the Final IRA Report. The policy determination accepts the Final IRA Report recommendations that the importation of pig meat be permitted subject to certain conditions depending on the health status of the exporting country or zone. Risk management measures include such things as country, zone or herd free from disease, testing of the carcass, cooking, freezing, curing, canning and removal of certain tissues or parts of the carcass (removal of the head, neck, bones and major lymph nodes).

AQIS will take the policy determination into account when considering applications for import permits for pig meat. Once an application for an import permit is received AQIS, in consultation with Biosecurity Australia, will be responsible for developing conditions specific to that

application, having regard to the health status of the exporting country or zone. AQIS and Biosecurity Australia will also ensure that the competent authority is able to inspect and certify product to Australia's requirements and, as appropriate, may inspect exporting plants and ensure audit systems are in place. .

For further information on the appeals, please contact:

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For information on the IRA and the implementation of the policy please get in touch with the contact officer below.

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