



27 August 2004

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/23

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS FOR BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES – DECISION TO
RELEASE FURTHER REVISED DRAFT IRA REPORT**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) informs stakeholders of Biosecurity Australia's decision to release a further revised Draft IRA Report, following consideration of all comments received during the current consultation period, which closes on 15 September 2004.

In June 2004 Biosecurity Australia released an addendum to the revised Draft IRA Report for bananas from the Philippines. A 60-day consultation period began upon its release and on 1 July 2004 an extension of a further 30 days was granted. All interested stakeholders are encouraged to continue to review the revised Draft IRA Report and the addendum and submit their technical comments to Biosecurity Australia by 15 September 2004.

Following a preliminary assessment of comments received to date and consultation with experts on the methodology used in the revised draft and subsequent addendum, Biosecurity Australia now advises that the IRA team will present a further revised Draft IRA Report after full consideration of all comments received during the current consultation period. A 60 day consultation period will apply to the further revised draft report.

Since the release of the addendum to the February 2004 revised Draft IRA Report a number of measures have been taken to reinforce the strong science-based approach to the conduct of IRAs and build stakeholder confidence in the IRA process. This includes the establishment of an Eminent Scientists Group. This group will independently review drafts of Final IRA Reports and all technical submissions received to ensure that stakeholder submissions have been adequately considered.

Biosecurity Australia encourages stakeholders to provide comments on the February 2004 revised Draft IRA Report and the June 2004 Addendum so that they can be taken into account by the IRA team. As already stated, the further revised Draft IRA Report will only be released after the IRA team's full consideration of all information received at the closure of the current comment period.

Comments on the current revised Draft IRA Report should be submitted by 15 September 2004 to the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
Plant Biosecurity
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au

Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant 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 1988*.

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 1982*.

Consultation

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services.

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the Internet at www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity.

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