



24 February 2005

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/03
PLANT BIOSECURITY – VARIATION TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to inform stakeholders of a variation to the administrative procedures outlined in the Import Risk Analysis Handbook (2003) and the outcomes of the review of a number of IRAs in progress.

In accordance with the Import Risk Analysis Handbook (2003), this is to inform stakeholders of a variation to the administrative procedures for a number of previously issued draft Import Risk Analyses (IRAs).

In late 2004 the Australian Government announced that Biosecurity Australia would be established as a prescribed agency and would review all IRAs in progress and reissue them as revised drafts for a further period of public comment. The IRAs affected by this announcement relate to the applications for the importation of limes from New Caledonia, table grapes from Chile, citrus from Florida, apples from New Zealand, and bananas from the Philippines.

In reviewing these IRAs, Biosecurity Australia took account of all relevant considerations, including stakeholder comments, further literature reviews, any recent interception data relevant to the IRA and compliance with international standards. The review process was overseen by a panel comprising Mr Murray Rogers AM, Chair of the Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council, and Dr David Banks, Principal Scientist Biosecurity Australia, who have now provided me with recommendations and advice on the most appropriate strategy for reissuing the IRAs.

The outcome of this process is that Biosecurity Australia will reissue the draft IRA reports for table grapes from Chile and limes from New Caledonia shortly. As stakeholders have previously had 60 days to comment on the last draft reports, a period of 45 days will be available for further comment on the reissued reports.

The assessment of citrus from Florida (USA) cannot be completed pending further information to be provided from USA authorities in relation to citrus canker.

The assessment of the substantial number of stakeholder comments received on the last draft IRA reports for apples from New Zealand and bananas from the Philippines require considerable further work. The Import Risk Analysis teams are continuing with this work in the normal way in accordance with the IRA Handbook. Biosecurity Australia will reissue draft IRA reports for the usual comment period of 60 days when this work is completed. Completion of this work is expected to take some months.

I expect that the variations to the procedures that have been implemented will maintain the rigour and transparency of Australia's science-based quarantine policy. I will continue to keep stakeholders informed as necessary of relevant developments.

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.

John Cahill
Interim Chief Executive

Contact: Technical and Administrative Services
Tel: 02 6272 5094
Fax: 02 6272 3307
Email: plantbiosec@daff.gov.au