



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

3 June 2005

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/08

**FINALISATION OF STAGE ONE OF THE PERMITTED SEEDS LIST
REVIEW**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) advises stakeholders of the finalisation of stage one of the permitted seeds list review.

Biosecurity Australia has completed stage one of a two stage review of the permitted seeds list (Schedule 5 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*).

Stage one involved Biosecurity Australia identifying which species on a list of over 4,000 potentially weedy species, considered not to be present in Australia and having been recorded as weeds overseas, were not present in Australia. This list had been prepared for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) by the Co-operative Research Centre for Australian Weed Management.

In consultation with stakeholders Biosecurity Australia has determined that 3,335 of these species are not present or traded in Australia. These species have now been removed from the permitted seeds list.

The necessary legislative changes to Schedule 5 of the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* were made on 30 May 2005. The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is updating the import conditions (ICON) database accordingly.

Any unassessed species not on the permitted list, including those removed on 30 May 2005, will be prohibited from entering Australia until a Weed Risk Assessment (WRA) has been completed to determine their agricultural and environmental weed potential in Australia.

Stage two of the review has commenced and will involve Biosecurity Australia establishing which species of the 2913 currently permitted genera are present and/or traded in Australia. In consultation with stakeholders Biosecurity Australia will recommend a list of species to replace genus level listings on the permitted seeds list.

In addition to tightening quarantine controls to manage the risk of weedy plant species entering Australia Biosecurity Australia needs to ensure, during both stages of the review, that seed importers and researchers are not disadvantaged by any unjustifiable regulation of seeds of species already present, or commonly traded, in Australia. Additionally, any changes to the permitted seeds list needs to be compliant with Australia's international obligations by ensuring that species already present in Australia are not prohibited.

It is anticipated that the full review will be completed by the end of 2006.

Consultation

If you wish to register as a stakeholder on our distribution list, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Biosecurity Australia's Technical and Administrative Services group, contact details below.

Information on the permitted seeds list review, IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the web at <http://www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity>.

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