



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

1 March 2005

PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2005/05

**REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT
FOR TAHITIAN LIMES FROM NEW CALEDONIA**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to notify stakeholders of the release of the revised draft import risk analysis report for Tahitian limes from New Caledonia.

PBPM 2005/03 notified stakeholders that Biosecurity Australia's review of the Import Risk Analysis for Tahitian limes from New Caledonia had been completed and a revised draft would be reissued for a further 45 day period of public comment.

The executive summary including the proposed phytosanitary measures for the importation of Tahitian limes from New Caledonia is attached.

The full report is available on the Biosecurity Australia website at www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia, under 'Current Topics'. A hard copy of the document can be requested from Technical and Administrative Services.

Comments on the revised draft IRA report should be submitted by 15 April 2005 to the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services
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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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Revised Draft IRA Report – Tahitian limes from New Caledonia

This revised draft import risk analysis report proposes that fresh Tahitian lime fruit from New Caledonia be allowed entry into Australia subject to phytosanitary measures for fruit flies, citrus scab, mealybugs, and little fire ant (as a contaminating pest). These pests will require the use of risk management measures in addition to New Caledonia's standard commercial production practices. The proposed risk management measures aim to provide a high level of sanitary and phytosanitary protection that will reduce risk to a level below Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

In March 1999, Australia initiated an import risk analysis (IRA) for the importation of Tahitian limes from New Caledonia following a request from the New Caledonian Government for market access in May 1996.

The risk assessment identified seven arthropods and one pathogen associated with the importation of Tahitian limes from New Caledonia that require risk management measures to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. A combination of risk management measures and operational systems is proposed to reduce the risks associated with the importation of fresh Tahitian limes from New Caledonia to a level acceptable to Australia (meets Australia's ALOP), specifically:

- systems approach for fruit flies (including specific phytosanitary requirements for fruit flies – certified mature green fruit);
- inspection and remedial action for the management of mealybugs and little fire ant;
- orchard control of *Sphaceloma fawcettii* (exotic citrus scab isolates);
- registration of export orchards and packinghouses;
- pre-export inspection and phytosanitary certification by DAVAR-NC;
- packing and labelling compliance;
- security of fruit; and
- on-arrival quarantine clearance by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS).

Biosecurity Australia circulated the technical issues paper in August 2002 and the draft import risk analysis report in September 2003. Stakeholder comments were considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into this revised draft import risk analysis report.

The *Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Tahitian Limes from New Caledonia* contains the following:

- Australia's framework for biosecurity policy and for import risk analysis, the international framework for trade in plants and plant products, Australia's current policy for importation of fresh Tahitian limes and information on the background to this IRA;
- an outline of the methodology and results of pest categorisation and risk assessments;
- proposed risk management measures;
- draft import conditions;
- further steps in the IRA process; and
- a synopsis of stakeholder comments to the draft IRA report and response from Biosecurity Australia.

Detailed risk assessments were conducted for those pests that were categorised as quarantine pests to determine an unrestricted risk estimate for each organism. For those pests for which the unrestricted risk was considered to be above Australia's ALOP, risk management measures have been considered. Consultation with the Direction des Affaires Vétérinaires Alimentaires et Rurales -

New Caledonia (DAVAR-NC) and input from stakeholders on the draft import conditions has resulted in a set of proposed risk management measures, including their objectives.

Details on these proposed risk management measures, including their objectives, are provided within this revised draft IRA report. Biosecurity Australia invites comments on the technical and economic feasibility of the proposed risk management measures. In particular, comments are sought on their appropriateness and any other measures that stakeholders consider would provide equivalent risk management.