

99/3281

Dear Stakeholder

FINAL IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS PAPER - FRESH TABLE GRAPES FROM CALIFORNIA

In response to a request from the Government of United States, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has conducted an import risk analysis (IRA) on a proposal to export fresh table grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) from California to Australia.

On the basis of the risk analysis the Executive Director of AQIS has determined that, consistent with Australia's quarantine policy, the importation of fresh table grapes from California will be permitted subject to the application of phytosanitary requirements as specified in Section 9 of the final IRA paper.

I enclose for your information a copy of the final IRA which incorporates the Executive Director's determination. The final IRA will also be available on the AQIS Homepage at </docs/quarantine/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>

Any stakeholder of the opinion that the process outlined in the AQIS [Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook](#) has not been properly followed for this IRA may appeal the decision. Appeals should be sent by close of business Monday 13 February 2000 to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, who is the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, at the following address:

The Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to an import proposal will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on the proposal. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. The contents of a 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*.

The following is my determination in relation to AQIS policy on the importation of fresh table grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) from California.

Importation of fresh table grapes will be permitted subject to the application of phytosanitary measures as specified in section 9 of this final import risk analysis (IRA) paper. These requirements maintain Australia's appropriate level of protection and accord with Australia's international rights and obligations under the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. The import

risk analysis has been conducted in accordance with the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*.

This policy is to be applied in accordance with the *Quarantine Act 1908* and *Quarantine Proclamation 1998* as amended ('the Proclamation'). The phytosanitary measures specified in section 9 of this final IRA paper are designed to limit the quarantine risk to a level which is acceptably low consistent with section 70 of the Proclamation.

I am satisfied that my determination to adopt the recommendations of the IRA is not an environmentally significant action, nor is it desirable for other reasons to designate a proponent to achieve the object of the *Environment Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974* and the Administrative Procedures made under that Act.

Brian Macdonald
Acting Executive Director

13 January 2000