

5 January 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/01

Chief Veterinary Officers, all States and the NT
Animal Programs Section, AQIS Operations
Office of the Australian CVO
Animal Health Branch, NOAPH
Veterinary Counsellors, Washington, Brussels & Seoul
Agricultural Counsellor, Tokyo
Pork Council of Australia
Australasian Pig Institute, University of Queensland

Pig Research and Development Corporation
Australian Pork Corporation
Environment Australia

Chief, CSIRO Division of Animal Health
National Farmers' Federation
Quarantine and Animal Health Task Force, NFF
Australian Animal Health Council
Australian Livestock Exporters' Council
National Meat Association of Australia
Australian Veterinary Association
Australasian Regional Association of Zoological Parks
and Aquaria
EU Delegation, Canberra
Chief Veterinary Officer, MAFRA, NZ

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: ZOO SUIDAE AND DICOTYLIDAE (TAYASSUIDAE) FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NORTH AMERICA

COMMENCEMENT AND CONSULTATION ON APPROACH

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) advises the commencement of an import risk analysis (IRA) to develop quarantine policy on the importation of *Suidae* (pigs, warthogs, babirusa) and *Dicotylidae* (peccaries) into Australia and seeks public comment on AQIS's proposed approach.

AQPM 1999/57 advised that AQIS had received access requests for zoo suidae and dicotylidae. Following consideration of stakeholder comments on priority and taking into account conservation considerations set out in AQPM 1999/57 AQIS has decided to commence the IRA.

The IRA will develop appropriate quarantine policy and will consider importation from European Union or North American licenced zoos only. Should imports be permitted the animals will be kept permanently in Australian zoos as part of cultural enhancement, conservation and education programs.

Proposed approach to the IRA

The IRA will follow the steps as set out in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*. The Handbook explains that the IRA can follow a 'routine' or 'non-routine' pathway. A 'routine' analysis is conducted by AQIS in-house, while a 'non-routine' analysis is conducted by a risk analysis panel (RAP) comprising scientific experts from AQIS and other organisations who have expertise in quarantine risk analysis and the disease agents relevant to the particular IRA. While both the routine and the non-routine approach involve consultation and communication with the public and with affected industries, the non-routine IRA provides for greater external involvement in the scientific assessment of disease risks and the

identification of risk management options. AQIS will conduct routine IRAs unless a non-routine approach is necessary. A decision to use the non-routine approach would depend on the nature of the IRA, particularly the scientific complexity of the issues under consideration and the seriousness of health risks potentially associated with the proposed importation.

The Animal Quarantine Policy Branch of AQIS proposes to take a routine approach as this IRA is not expected to be technically complex and previous work has been done in the development of quarantine conditions for the importation of laboratory pigs into permanent quarantine. The IRA will also be able to draw on information from the current IRAs on pig semen and pig meat.

Your comments are invited

We welcome your advice on the proposed routine approach to this IRA. Following receipt of public comment, I will confirm the approach to be taken. It would be helpful if you would provide names and details of relevant expertise for those scientists whom AQIS might involve in the IRA.

Your response by 9 February 2000 would be appreciated.

We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise AQIS if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter. Inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1982*, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine 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.

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.

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