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7 June 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/29

CODES OF PRACTICE FOR THE POST IMPORT HANDLING OF AQUATIC ANIMALS AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides a discussion paper on the development by industry and other community groups of Codes of Practice dealing with the post-import handling of aquatic animals, their products and associated materials.

The report of the National Task Force on Imported Fish and Fish Products recommended that AQIS facilitate the development of Codes of Practice dealing with the post import handling of aquatic animals and their products. The Commonwealth Government in its response to the Task Force Report accepted this recommendation ('Australian Quarantine: A Shared Responsibility – The Government Response').

AQIS has prepared a discussion paper on the development, by industry and other community groups, of Codes of Practice that address the quarantine risks potentially associated with imported aquatic animals, their products and associated materials. AQIS's objective is to increase community awareness and understanding of the risks that could arise from inappropriate use and disposal of imported aquatic animal products.

The discussion paper is not intended to pre-empt the outcome of reviews of quarantine policies that have recently been completed, are in progress or are yet to commence. Rather it is a practical way to develop strategies, described by the National Task Force as Progressive Risk Management Strategies (PRMS), to reduce any residual quarantine risk associated with existing import practices. The National Task Force recommended that PRMS be based on voluntary, industry self-regulation. AQIS hopes that the discussion paper will provide a starting point for discussions with industry on specific strategies.

Next Steps

Industry organisations or community groups that would like AQIS to provide comment or advice on the development of a Code of Practice should contact the nominated officer.

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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