

ALCAN AUSTRALIA WINS 2006 NATIONAL QUARANTINE AWARD



The national winners, Klaus Helms and David Syme representing the 'Alcan Gove G3 Expansion Project' with Minister McGauran.

The winner of the 2006 National Quarantine Award is Alcan Australia, for its support in maintaining Australia's quarantine integrity during the development of the firm's \$2 billion Gove G3 alumina refinery expansion.

A significant feature of the Alcan G3 expansion project has been its imports of very large pre-assembled modules (PAMs) from construction sites in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam.

In consultation with AQIS, Alcan constructed a special wash-down facility for the PAMs, which are up to four storeys high. The firm also worked with AQIS to educate employees in Australia and overseas to minimise the risk of quarantine risk material entering Australia; facilitated offshore quarantine clearance for hundreds of thousands of tonnes of heavy equipment; and introduced special quarantine audits at all building sites.

The G3 alumina refinery employs about 5000 people, with 1100 employees on site at Nhulunbuy (about 800 kilometres northeast of Darwin) and a further 4000 people in Brisbane, Darwin, Thailand and Vietnam.

The project began in September 2004, and to date more than 400 PAMs have arrived in Gove, including two alumina calciners each weighing 1800 tonnes — the largest PAMs to be built off-site for any project in the southern hemisphere.

Alcan's vigilance, its co-operation with AQIS, and its commitment to maintaining Australia's quarantine integrity, make it an outstanding recipient of the 2006 National Quarantine Award.

see page 4 for regional winners



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

CAPACITY BUILDING IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA



Matthew Ball visits villagers in the border region of PNG

AQIS's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) programme recently completed the first stage of an enhanced avian influenza surveillance and reporting project in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

This AusAID-funded collaborative project involves AQIS, the PNG National Agriculture and Quarantine Inspection Authority, the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing, PNG's Department of Health and a number of other government and non-government agencies in PNG.

Through NAQS, AQIS is taking a lead role in organising the project. As part of stage one of the project, veterinary officer Matthew Ball visited approximately forty sites in Western and Sandaun province identified as high risk for the entry of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

Matthew and his team carried out public awareness activities; identified key contacts; carried out initial training of key contacts; assessed reporting mechanisms; and where necessary; surveyed the site

for the deployment of a high frequency radio; and sampled chickens.

Plans are now being made to implement stage two of the project which will involve a series of training workshops for the identified key contacts.

Matthew Ball

BATTLING MARINE INVADERS IN THE WHITSUNDAYS

AQIS officers from Brisbane and Mackay joined forces for the first time in southern Queensland's Whitsunday Islands in August to promote Australia's soon-to-be-mandatory hull bio-fouling requirements.

Local and international sailors arrive for the region's annual Race Week in August, a highlight on the Whitsundays calendar with hundreds of yachts converging on marinas between Mackay and the Whitsunday passage.

With so many yachts in one place, AQIS officers aboard the Brisbane-based *Al Jordan*

AUSTRALIA MARKS 100 YEARS OF QUARANTINE



Photo courtesy of the National Library of Australia, David Elliott theatrical postcard collection (PIC Album 998/1082)

Quarantine in Australia turns 100 in March next year with celebrations to mark the introduction of the *Quarantine Act* in 1908.

In practical terms quarantine procedures were in force well before that date, with our first animal quarantine stations operating on islands in Sydney Harbour soon after European settlement began in 1788.

Australia's reputation for strict plant and animal controls wasn't officially established until the early 20th century, when our reliance on agriculture export industries was recognised by industry, the community and overseas trading partners.

AQIS will be celebrating that 100-year journey, from quarantine being the responsibility of the Commonwealth Department of Health to its transfer in 1985 to what is today the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

and the Mackay patrol vessel *Al Graham* took the opportunity to raise awareness of quarantine risks. They checked vessels' stores, looked for any animals on board, and promoted coming bio-fouling requirements to the skippers and crew of more than 100 yachts.

The new requirements, which come into effect on 1 July 2007, will manage fouling on international vessels to provide better protection from unwanted marine invaders, some 250 of which have already established themselves in Australian waters.

All owners or skippers of visiting yachts must submit them for inspection on arrival in Australia.

AQIS Mackay manager Stephen Tognolini said that August to October is the busiest time of year for yachting in the Whitsundays, making it a golden opportunity to promote the quarantine message.

Mackay is fast becoming a popular first port of call for international yachts: AQIS inspects up to 40 yachts arriving there each year and numbers are growing steadily.

Maryanne Kepui

FOOD ADDITIVES BANNED UNDER NEW JAPANESE IMPORT REGULATIONS

The *Quarantine Act 1908* provides the legislative basis for national human, plant and animal quarantine activities in Australia. The centenary of that act will be marked by events and activities that involve AQIS and DAFF staff, key industry partners, the Government and the Australian public.

Activities under development to help us celebrate include a commemorative postage stamp and coin issue; a national travelling exhibition; an official history of quarantine; regional open days; and memorabilia such as medallions and plaques.

Centenary events are being co-ordinated by a Centenary of Quarantine Advisory Committee: for more information, contact the committee secretariat — Rachel Roberts (02) 6271 6386, or Anna Simonds (02) 6272 5215.

Food exporters to Japan will be aware of the Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's list, introduced in May 2006, setting maximum residue limits for agricultural and veterinary chemicals in foods.

However, they may not be aware that other food chemicals such as food additives will also be subjected to similar import testing and subject to the same consequences if they breach regulatory limits.

These changes have attracted attention because Japan has recently rejected a small number of seafood consignments, particularly of abalone, after sulphur dioxide exceeding the regulatory limit was detected.

AQIS is intent on working to prevent a recurrence of these rejections, which are costly and inconvenient for exporters and importers.

Sulphur dioxide may be used in Australia for a range of products

and a level of 1000 milligrams per kilogram is allowed in canned abalone.

The Japanese Food Sanitation Law allows the use of sulphur dioxide in abalone up to a level of 30 milligrams per kilogram, but only when it is used as a 'bleaching agent', 'preservative' or 'anti-oxidant'. Other uses are prohibited.

However, under the Japanese Standards for Foodstuffs and Additives Ordinance, no additives can be added to foods in retorted pouches, (unopened hermetically-sealed containers that have been heated for a time, and to a temperature, sufficient to make the contents commercially sterile) other than sodium hypochlorite as a preservative or germicide.

Australian exporters of retorted abalone need to make sure they meet the requirements under both the Food Sanitation Law and the Standards for Foodstuffs

and Additives Ordinance. This means, all abalone for export to Japan must contain 30 milligrams per kilogram or less of sulphur dioxide and, if prepared by retorting in a pouch, the sulphur dioxide must be listed as a bleaching agent or an anti-oxidant and not as a preservative. Exporters may consider providing the information that the sulphur dioxide is used as bleaching agent or an anti-oxidant to importers in Japan, to help Australian exports of abalone through the Japanese import system.

Japan is one of Australia's most important markets for food and agriculture products and Australia has a very good reputation there for safe, wholesome and high quality foods. It is important to maintain that reputation by meeting Japanese food regulations.

Fay Stenhouse

AQIS OFFICER BRAVES GIANT SHARKS TO INSPECT JAPANESE TUNA SHIPS

While most of Australia was thinking calm thoughts in commuter traffic, AQIS export fish inspector Chris Jackson was attempting to ignore the thought that sharks were cruising just beneath his feet while he was inspecting tuna fishing vessels in South Australia's Boston Bay.

During August, Chris worked on two new Japanese southern bluefin tuna processing vessels anchored five kilometres from Boston Bay, near Port Lincoln.

The 120-metre *Tuna Princess*

and *Houta Maru* are the first to operate under recently introduced Approved Arrangements required by new fish export legislation.

After sailing out in a small charter boat each morning, AQIS officers used to board via rope ladder. Increased shark activity this year led AQIS to reassess its occupational health and safety procedures and to introduce solid gangways.

Chris is confident but not foolhardy - he welcomed the

new procedures, knowing that some of the sharks dwarfed his charter boat in length and almost matched it in girth. "I approached the first boarding of the day with a healthy degree of trepidation," he said.

Chris conducted food safety audits of the tuna boats and made sure structural and hygienic arrangements met export standards. The Japanese vessels arrive annually to process bluefin tuna, which can grow up to two metres and weigh 100 kilograms. The fish are

marketed almost exclusively in Japan for sashimi and can fetch an astonishing \$133,000 . . . for a single fish.

Local harvest boats collect the farmed tuna from sea cages and deliver the catch to the Japanese ships, where it is winched aboard and dressed by skilled process workers before going below into giant freezer chambers set to minus 60 degrees Celsius.

Neil Ramsay

AND THE REGIONAL QUARANTINE AWARD WINNERS ARE . . .

VICTORIA

Schenker Australia, a freight clearance company, won the Victorian Regional Award for playing a key role in last year's Melbourne Commonwealth Games as well as other major international events such as the 2006 Volvo Round the World Yacht Race.

Schenker Australia won for its work in facilitating quarantine cargo clearance for Commonwealth Games representatives from 53 countries. AQIS and Schenker representatives worked closely together to develop a logistics freight manual for distribution to representatives from every Commonwealth country.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The quality of nominees for the New South Wales 2006 regional award was so high judges chose to recognise a number of winners.

Newcastle Stevedores earned a share in the award for alerting AQIS to a live muttonbird on a container vessel from Asia. The bird could have been carrying a number of disease risks, including exotic strains of Newcastle disease or bird flu. A few days later, the firm alerted AQIS to a green tree frog on a ship from Indonesia.

Meanwhile, in a fine example of industry and AQIS working together, AstraZeneca, Basell Australia and CRT Group demonstrated a high level of quarantine awareness when workers discovered signs of steely blue wood wasps on



imported timber pallets. With help from all three firms, AQIS was able to coordinate speedy treatment of the pallets.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In Adelaide, Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council member John Crosby presented the South Australian regional award to Jeff Hann from DHL Australia for his outstanding contribution to Australia's quarantine integrity.

On three separate occasions during the year Jeff detected items of quarantine concern inside parcels that were due to be delivered without quarantine intervention; each of the consignments had been falsely declared as containing non-risk items. Most notable was the occasion when Jeff noticed seeds inside a falsely declared consignment of goods that had not generated quarantine scrutiny.

SOUTH QUEENSLAND

Don Sutcliffe, a transport driver for Patrick Logistics Depot, was the winner of the 2006 regional award for South Queensland.

Mr Sutcliffe has been a transport driver for more than 30 years in the cargo industry. He won the award for his work in alerting Patrick Logistics staff and AQIS's cargo integrity unit in Brisbane to grain seed contamination in the insides of containers he was transporting.

FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

Seven years of commitment to supporting quarantine initiatives on Cape York have led to a regional award for Mapoon community rangers' supervisor Lawrie Booth.

Lawrie provided invaluable support to AQIS's Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) programme, liaising with traditional owners and

John Crosby (Deputy Chairman, QEAC), Peter Yuile (Executive Director, AQIS), Klaus Helms (Alcan), David Syme representing the 2006 National Quarantine Award recipient 'Alcan Gove G3 Expansion Project', Minister McGauran, Dr Denis Anderson (CSIRO Entomology), and Dr Mallik Malipatil (Plant Health Taxonomy Group, VIC DPI)

council members to enable AQIS personnel to enter community lands; guided scientists to areas of quarantine concern; and facilitated and participated in every NAQS pest and disease survey in the Mapoon community.

Lawrie also maintained sentinel pigs at Mapoon to monitor for Japanese encephalitis, following an incursion of the mosquito-borne disease in Torres Strait and on Cape York in 1998.

QUARANTINE AWARDS RECOGNISE THE PUBLIC SECTOR

While private industry, community groups and individuals have been recognised for their quarantine awareness over the six years of the National Quarantine Awards, in 2006 the public sector was also recognised for its commitment to maintaining Australia's biosecurity.

Dr Denis Anderson of CSIRO Entomology won an inaugural Public Sector Award for his work in developing safe and cost-effective quarantine procedures for importing Canadian leafcutter bees to help the Australian lucerne industry and similar industries become more competitive on the world market.

Dr Anderson also developed a DNA fingerprinting method for distinguishing imported and indigenous leafcutter bees, to permit effective quarantine tracking.

For its advice and support to AQIS staff over many years, the Victorian Department of Primary Industry's Plant Health Taxonomy Group also received a Public Sector Award.

The group includes some of Australia's foremost plant disease and insect specialists, and its facility houses the Australian Plant Disease Database, one of the country's largest national reference collections of plant pests and pathogens.

The taxonomy group is always busy with its own important work, but its members treat AQIS enquiries with the highest priority, allowing AQIS scientists to identify potentially exotic pests and diseases quickly, and to manage the threat of these becoming established in Australia.

SHELLFISH TO EUROPE

The European Commission has agreed to permit exports of live Australian bivalves to the European Union.

The Commission also confirmed that AQIS has provided appropriate guarantees that Australia's food safety measures satisfy the Commission's strict conditions for such imports.

The listing, which took effect in December 2006, means harvesting areas that comply with prescribed export conditions may begin exporting immediately.

The South Australian harvesting

areas of Bicker's Island, Boston Bay, Coorong, Denial Bay, Franklin Harbour, Lincoln, Port Douglas, Proper Bay and St Peter's Island already have achieved that status.

The Commission's decision follows 18 months of work by AQIS and marks the first time European Union access has been granted for live Australian shellfish.

The Commission has scheduled a visit to Australia in early 2007 to assess food safety measures on-site.

Mark Kelly

A UNIQUE CONFERENCE IN AN IDEAL SETTING

The camp alarm clock was a pet echidna jumping on the horn of a four-wheel-drive vehicle at 4 am, sleeping arrangements were sand and swags, and starlight lit the scene with silver.

Those are the memories that AQIS's Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) National Manager, Jane Parlett and AQIS Darwin staff will carry from a truly unique conference in northeastern Arnhem Land, about 500 km from Darwin.

Far away from the air-conditioned halls of Australia's major capitals, the Miyalk (women's) Land and Sea Management Conference was held at the picturesque Gulkula Camp Ground near Yirrkala.

The AQIS group was there to engage the women on new initiatives to achieve greater indigenous participation in quarantine surveillance and training.

Aboriginal women land managers convened the three-day conference

to discuss issues of great significance to themselves and AQIS. The hosts took their guests on tours of their current projects and revealed sites of cultural and historical significance.

Among the highlights for Jane — and there were many — were visits to the Yirrkala native plant nursery, art centre and Macassan Beach where, for hundreds of years, Macassan traders camped during their annual voyages to gather trepang (sea slugs).

Conference presentations included the environmental threats posed by feral cane toads, ranger study scholarships, enterprise development, tourism, youth leadership, fire management and the Aboriginal land permit system.

AQIS Northern Territory plant pathologist Jane Ray spoke on how to collect plant specimens for disease identification and gave the women a pictorial manual to assist them.

Kay Carvan

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SHARING MARITIME ASSETS IN THE TORRES STRAIT

AQIS, the Australian Customs Service, the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship, and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) regarding the use of Commonwealth maritime assets in the Torres Strait.

The memorandum follows the tragic loss of the DIAC vessel *Malu Sara* and her crew in October 2005, and formalises

arrangements for co-operation between the agencies that operate small vessels in the strait - AQIS, for example, has five vessels engaged in quarantine work in the region.

All agencies except the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade have border protection roles in the Torres Strait, and the MOU will help avoid unnecessary duplication of services. It sets out common operating standards governing future small vessel acquisitions, their maintenance and use.

TONY SAILS THROUGH QUARANTINE

After 11 days incommunicado after his yacht was damaged by a fishing net, round-the-world yachtsman Tony Bullimore made an unscheduled stop in Albany, Western Australia in November 2006, prompting a quick response by AQIS inspectors.

Mr Bullimore was on his way from the Maldives with three crew members in his yacht *Doha 2006*, to prepare for a solo round-the-world record attempt starting from Hobart, Tasmania.

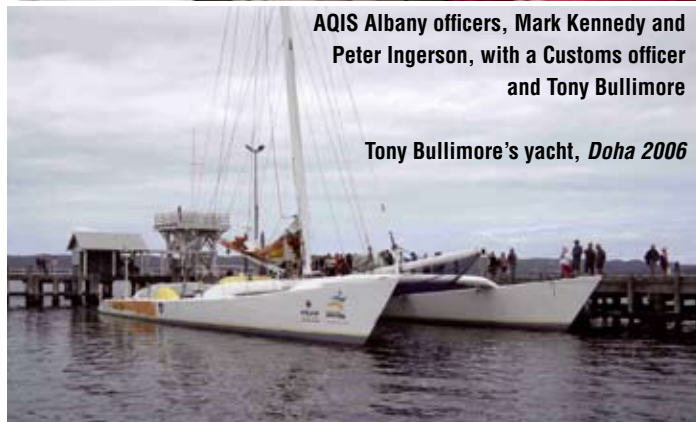
To break the record he will have to sail 34,560 kilometres in fewer than 71 days, 14 hours and 18 minutes (and 35 seconds!) to beat the time set by 28 year-old Briton Ellen MacArthur last year.

Mr Bullimore's 31-metre catamaran made a spectacular entry into Albany, speeding into the harbour and because of equipment failures hitting the town jetty, propelling a crew member into the water.

AQIS Albany officers Mark Kennedy and Peter Ingerson performed the quarantine inspection, which turned out to



AQIS Albany officers, Mark Kennedy and Peter Ingerson, with a Customs officer and Tony Bullimore



Tony Bullimore's yacht, *Doha 2006*

be far more straightforward than the yacht's newsworthy arrival.

There was very little food on the catamaran other than provisions of no quarantine risk — and despite the bump into the jetty,

the yacht itself was in excellent condition.

Jen O'Reilly

US REVIEWS OUR DAIRY AND MEAT SAFETY SYSTEMS

United States agencies completed reviews of selected Australian dairy export registered businesses in July and August 2006 and the Australian meat inspection system in August 2006. No significant adverse findings were made, and exports will continue as normal.

The United States Food and Drug Authority (FDA) reviewed nine dairy exporters while the United States Food Safety

Inspection Service (FSIS) looked at our meat inspection system.

During such reviews inspectors submit a written report, if they find minor issues that need to be addressed.

For example, the FDA team advised some companies to ensure the effectiveness, correct installation and validation of pasteurisers; continue to upgrade documentation of standard

operating procedures and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plans; and continue to upgrade preventive maintenance programs.

The United States FSIS completed its scheduled review of the Australian export meat inspection system at the end of August 2006, with the best audit outcome of the past five years.

Michael Scammell

NEW SERVICE FEES FOR LIVE ANIMAL EXPORTS

As part of broad changes to welfare arrangements for live animals for export, AQIS has introduced new requirements (including charging annual fees) for accredited veterinarians.

Legislation introduced in November 2006 requires all vets in AQIS-approved export programs to register annually for accreditation. They have until 21 May 2007 to complete a once-off examination in the form of an online series of three modules, where they are required to get 100 per cent in all three modules, and to pay an annual \$208 accreditation fee. The exam run by Animal Health Australia costs \$220.

In future, to be accredited by AQIS, vets will have to be registered in their own state or territory, hold current registration with the Accreditation Program for Australian Vets, and complete the online examination. They must also meet all requirements set by importing countries.

The new legislation applies only to vets involved in livestock export and does not include exports of horses, pigs, cats or dogs.

Jane Parker

hit parade 11



AQIS operations staff recorded the following amusing and occasionally alarming events over the past couple of months . . .

Detector dog technical supervisor Dee Apps was road testing a potential recruit at Sydney's domestic airport and was making sure the new dog would be comfortable working in the busy airport environment when an elderly couple stopped in front of her. The travellers obviously felt the new beagle had a nose for authority: they promptly put down their luggage, produced two apples and apologised profusely for not putting them in the bin. The beagle passed his test with flying colours and will begin training soon.

One of the more interesting finds at Sydney's International Mail Centre in the lead up to Christmas was a parcel declared as containing testicular implants for pets. According to the manufacturer's website, the implants 'allow your pet to retain his natural look, self esteem and aids in the trauma associated with neutering.' The implants are available in sizes to fit neutered dogs, cats, horses and cattle and are intended to be implanted at the time of neutering — though they can also be retro-fitted. The implants, made of solid silicone, pose no quarantine risk.

In Adelaide, AQIS-trained storeman Steven Carne spotted a tiny snake near an imported container and recognised the hitchhiker as a potential threat. Steve immediately notified on-site AQIS officer Chris Wright,

who captured the snake (only a few centimetres long) and inspected the cargo to ensure no other exotic travellers were on board. South Australian Museum curator of reptiles and amphibians Mark Hutchinson identified it as a brahminy blind snake or 'flowerpot snake', native to Southeast Asia but now widespread in tropical parts of the world. Flowerpot snakes have been found in Australia's tropics since the 1960s but the species hasn't established itself in southern Australia . . . and with the support of quarantine-aware industry workers such as Steve, it's unlikely to do so.

A couple returning from China through Perth Airport declared they were carrying tea, but AQIS officer Gavin Lyons saw an unusual image on x-rays of their bag. The images revealed the passengers were indeed carrying tea — but that it was inside an ornate statue of a lion. Because no ingredients were listed, normal procedure would have been to open the container: but the statue didn't have a replaceable lid, so Gavin would have to break it open. The passengers were horrified at the thought and opted to pay for the statue to be sent back to China. The reason? The statue is one of only 300 in the world.

Having recovered from the tea detection, Gavin thought he was pretty well prepared for anything . . . except what he found when he opened a pot of (declared) rice wine from Thailand for inspection. To Gavin's astonishment — and the passenger's horror — when

he opened the lid a mass of live insects poured out. The passenger quickly declined Gavin's offer of treatment, and immediately opted for destruction of the item instead.

Alimentary, my dear Watson! AQIS officers at Sydney Airport's international mail facility intercepted 7 kg of the world's rarest coffee, kopi luwak ('civet coffee' in Bahasa Indonesia). The highly valuable coffee beans — kopi luwak fetches up to \$1000 a kilo — were kept secure pending further advice on their unusual processing method. It seems the omnivorous palm civet consider coffee beans a delicacy. Harvesters collect the beans from the civet's droppings, wash them and roast them.

Crunchy frog anyone? With memories of the famous Monty Python skit no doubt fresh in his mind, AQIS officer, Rod Pennicuik at the Melbourne international mail centre intercepted a consignment of whole dried frogs from Thailand. The parcel also contained homemade chilli paste to add extra zest to the crunchy delights. Rod didn't find any stormy petrels on a stick, but both the frogs and paste had to be destroyed because they could have carried exotic pests and diseases.

For AQIS Christmas means one thing above all else: unsuitable gifts from overseas. So it was for AQIS Melbourne officer Fabian Marson, who spotted an item from the United States containing 'blooming flower cards' — paper greeting cards

with seeds inside. The idea is that the recipient plants the whole card and the seeds shoot and grow. Fabian uncovered further problems in parcels from the US, including one that was declared to contain dried fruit. Instead it contained almost two kilograms of beef jerky and three kilos of meat floss. The seeds and the meat were destroyed.

Halloween also spells trouble - giant carved pumpkins and other food items could harbour unwanted pests and diseases, but AQIS WA officer Helen Szweczyk had to hunt a little bit harder for her find. She x-rayed the bags of a British couple who had arrived at Perth Airport from Hong Kong and discovered three small pumpkins. The couple explained they'd been given the carved cucurbits as a Halloween gift while in Hong Kong and had forgotten they'd packed them. Helen seized the pumpkins for destruction and issued a \$220 fine, making this Halloween considerably more costly than expected for the forgetful travellers.

An AQIS officer at Sydney international mail centre inspecting a parcel from the United States declared as 'snack items' was surprised to find it contained cricket snacks. No, not snacks to munch on while watching our flannelled friends, but crickets as snacks — flavoured insects, including salt and vinegar, sour cream and onion and bacon and cheese.

CODEX

Public information about Codex meetings, agenda and standards and related texts included in the Codex Alimentarius is available on the internet. The web address for Codex Australia is www.codexaustralia.gov.au

For further information:

Phone 02 6272 5692

SPS

The World Trade Organisation's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures provides a regular forum for consultation and for the implementation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement, in particular international harmonisation of SPS measures.

For copies of the documents listing Notifications phone 02 6272 5252

International plant protection convention

Information of IPPC International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, meetings, the work program and related issues can be found at www.ippc.int

REDLINE

If you believe someone you know has broken Australia's quarantine, meat or food inspection laws, we want to hear from you!

AQIS's Compliance staff need your help to identify and prosecute people who are breaking our quarantine and inspection laws. We value contributions from concerned citizens — because everyone has a part to play in helping AQIS protect our primary industries, environment and way of life.

CALL 1800 803 006

or write to: AQIS Redline
GPO Box 858
Canberra ACT 2601

FOCUS ON . . . ELVIS, SHANIA, MALCOLM AND DELILAH



As Australia's summer bushfire season began in earnest in late November 2006, firefighters welcomed the arrival in Sydney of four 'sky crane' firefighting helicopters on loan from the United States.

AQIS was there to inspect the very important visitors for uninvited quarantine risk material.

First to arrive were *Elvis* and *Shania*, aboard a giant Antonov aircraft. They were later followed by *Malcolm* and *Delilah*.

Quarantine officers Leeanne Tame and Cristina Barca went over the choppers with a fine-tooth comb and found a small amount of quarantine risk material, including soil and plant material and several dead wasps. These were quickly disposed of and the craft were released to begin their important work, with the four sky cranes seeing a great deal of service this summer.



Readers who wish to comment on any item published in the *AQIS Bulletin*, or to seek further information, can contact the editor by email: pr@aqis.gov.au or by post:

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For more information about AQIS services, contact:

	ANIMAL QUARANTINE	PLANT QUARANTINE	EXPORT INSPECTION meat/dairy/fish	EXPORT INSPECTION fruit/veg/grains	IMPORTED FOOD INSPECTION
NSW	(02) 8334 7432	(02) 8334 7552	(02) 8834 7582	(02) 8334 7613	(02) 8334 7475
VIC	(03) 8318 6969	(03) 8318 6977	(03) 8318 6751	(03) 8318 6953	(03) 8318 6902
QLD	(07) 3246 8731	(07) 3246 8766	(07) 3246 8743	(07) 3246 8603	(07) 3246 8715
SA	(08) 8201 6007	(08) 8201 6007	(08) 8201 6102	(08) 8201 6037	(08) 8201 6025
WA	(08) 9334 1555	(08) 9334 1555	(08) 9334 1555	(08) 9334 1555	(08) 9334 1555
Tas	(03) 6233 3352	(03) 6233 3352	(03) 6233 3352	(03) 6233 3352	(03) 6233 3352
NT	(08) 8920 7008	(08) 8920 7040	(08) 8920 7000	(08) 8920 7039	(08) 8920 7040
ACT	(02) 6272 5506	(02) 6272 3518	(02) 6272 4579	(02) 6272 5776	(02) 6272 4934