

Letter as sent to stakeholders on 27 October 1999.

99/1823 & 99/184

Dear Stakeholder

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSES ON CONIFEROUS SAWN TIMBER AND LOGS  
FROM NORTH AMERICA AND WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS FROM  
ASIA**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the outcome of the first round of consultation on the import risk analyses (IRA) for:

- a) coniferous sawn timber and logs from North America, and
- b) wood packing materials entering Australia from Asia (including any associated with imported commodities).

My letter of 24 August 1999 invited all stakeholders to comment on the type of risk analysis process to be followed in this instance. Stakeholders who responded supported AQIS's proposal that the IRAs be undertaken using the non-routine process, and accordingly AQIS will proceed in this way. The steps of the non-routine process are outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which has been distributed to stakeholders.

AQIS now invites stakeholders to comment on the proposed membership of the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP). The composition of the panel reflects a balance between members with experience and expertise in quarantine risk analysis who are aware of international obligations and responsibilities, and members drawn from scientific organisations, State departments, private consultancy firms, or qualified members of the public. Members are selected because of their scientific expertise and not as representatives of any particular organisation, sector or industry and are independent of any particular commercial interest.

The proposed panel is:

Bill Magee (Chair)  
Senior Manager, Grains, Plants and Plant products  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Policy and International Division  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Paul Pheloung  
Manager, Weeds and Forest Team  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Policy and International Division  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

David Heinrich  
Manager, Border Review  
Import Clearance Branch  
Quarantine and Export Operations Division  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Ross Wylie  
Director, Forest Entomologist  
Queensland Forestry Research Institute

Jonathon Banks  
Senior Scientist, Disinfestation/Fumigation  
Treatments and Protocols  
CSIRO Division of Entomology

A précis of the curriculum vitae of each member of the panel is at Attachment 1 [not provided electronically]. Other scientific experts nominated by stakeholders will be considered as possible members of working groups, if required, to assist the panel. It is estimated that the risk analyses will take approximately twelve months to complete. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect the draft Issues Papers to be circulated in February 2000. The draft IRA Papers are likely to be released for consideration and comment by June 2000. Stakeholders will be kept informed of any significant delays or variations to the proposed timeframe.

You are invited to comment on the proposed panel membership, the scope and timing of the IRA. Your comments will be taken into consideration when AQIS finalises its position on these issues at the end of the consultation period. AQIS will accept written submissions until the close of business on 29 November 1999. Responses should be forwarded to:

Risk Analysis Secretariat  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Ph: 02 6272 5094  
Fax: 02 6272 3307

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the review will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in the review. 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 AQIS import risk analysis process, as documented in the AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook, does not provide for extensions to the formal consultation stages.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the above address. Information on all IRAs being conducted by the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is available on the AQIS homepage.

We look forward to receiving your input.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine  
Director Policy and International Division

27 October 1999