



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

1 March 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/06

**REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR
BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum notifies stakeholders of the release of the *Revised draft import risk analysis report for Cavendish bananas from the Philippines* and advises stakeholders of the opportunity to provide comment on the report within a 90-day extended comment period, which closes on 30 May 2007.

In December 2004 the Australian Government announced that Biosecurity Australia would review import risk analyses (IRAs) then in progress and reissue them for a further period of public comment. The IRA for bananas from the Philippines was one of the affected IRAs. The review of this IRA and the consideration of the substantial number of stakeholder comments received on the draft report and addendum issued in 2004 has now been completed.

Biosecurity Australia has today issued a revised draft IRA report to stakeholders for comment by 30 May 2007. This extended comment period of 90 days, compared with the usual 60 days, has been provided to give stakeholders sufficient time to absorb and comment on the very substantial and detailed material contained in the report's three volumes.

The report identifies seven pests and diseases of concern, notably Moko and Black Sigatoka, as well as a number of pests not present in Western Australia that are present in eastern Australia. The proposed quarantine measures, to manage risks to a very low level consistent with Australia's conservative approach to quarantine (appropriate level of protection), contained in the draft report include:

- potential exports only from areas that demonstrate low pest prevalence
- registration of export blocks
- inspections to detect the presence of any diseases
- ongoing inspections of blocks and fruit, including by AQIS inspectors
- disinfection and fungicide spraying
- mandatory pre-clearance arrangements with the presence and involvement of AQIS inspectors in the Philippines in applying quarantine conditions in the field, including in packing houses
- tight auditing and verification by AQIS of systems and processes used by the Philippines to certify any exports
- combinations of measures for specific pests to be used in an integrated system, recognising that no single measure is considered sufficient to manage each of the risks

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- detailed data and documentation to be provided by the Philippines for consideration by Australia prior to any exports to verify and validate quarantine measures to be implemented by the Philippines.

A minority view from a member of the expert team undertaking the analysis has been included in the draft report concerning the proposed risk management measures for Moko. This has been included to ensure full transparency and allow comment by all stakeholders on all relevant issues.

The draft report is available from the Biosecurity Australia website, www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au. A hard copy can be requested from the address below. In addition, Biosecurity Australia will post on the website a corrigendum of corrections that may be required that come to our attention during the consultation period.

Spreadsheet model

A copy of the spreadsheet model used in the report is also available upon request. This model has been developed taking into account relevant available data and information, stakeholder comments and expert advice from the Bureau of Rural Sciences. The structure of the model is based on the Method for Import Risk Analysis, Probability of entry, establishment and spread, and Consequences and risk sections described in pages 15-46 of Part B of the revised draft IRA report.

The model is a tool for understanding and estimating the effectiveness of risk management options, based on a series of expert assumptions. It is not designed to provide a definitive risk value for any pest or pest event. The model must therefore be used in conjunction with all of the risk assumptions and values defined in Part B of the report and be understood in the context of the report as a whole.

To obtain a copy of the spreadsheet model, stakeholders should read the Terms of Use and send a Request Form to Biosecurity Australia (available via the website). Upon receipt of a signed Request Form, Biosecurity Australia will provide an electronic copy of the spreadsheet model with a unique password to open the file.

If you require any clarification on issues relating to the use of the model, please contact Mr David Porritt on (02) 6272 4633.

Comments on the draft IRA report should be submitted by 30 May 2007 to Biosecurity Australia at:

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GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6272 5094
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Confidentiality

Stakeholders are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Plant Biosecurity 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.

Consultation

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder on our distribution list, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the above address.

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available via www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

John Cahill
Chief Executive