

T98/1912

21 August 1998

Dear Stakeholder

I am writing to formally notify you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is undertaking an import risk analysis (IRA) on the importation of papaya fruit from Fiji.

Approval already exists for the importation of this commodity from Fiji, provided the fruit undergo suitable fruit fly disinfestation treatment. However the currently approved treatment, ethylene dibromide (EDB), is being phased out in many countries and is no longer used in Australia. The Fijian government has proposed an alternative heat treatment.

AQIS will consider the proposal using the IRA process outlined in the Government's response to the report of the recent review of Australian quarantine chaired by Professor Malcolm Nairn. As part of the process stakeholders, if they wish, may now offer information and comment on the priority which they consider should be accorded by AQIS to the proposal.

AQIS will be writing to you again in the near future to explain the proposed risk analysis process and to seek your views. I ask that peak industry groups who receive this letter keep their affiliates informed of this process.

If you wish to add a particular stakeholder to our distribution list for this IRA please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the following address:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch  
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service  
PO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
Tel: (02) 6272 5094

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to an import proposal will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on the proposal. 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.

A public file, containing the non-confidential stakeholder comment and technical documentation, will be established at the commencement of each IRA. Public files will be held at AQIS headquarters in Canberra and will be available to stakeholders during business hours for perusal and copying. Contact information for making appointments to gain access to a public file will be listed under the relevant Quarantine Policy Branch on the inside front cover of the IRA Handbook to be released in August 1998.

I look forward to your participation in the IRA process.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stynes  
Assistant Director  
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch