

Letter as sent to stakeholders on 24 January 2000.

99/1823 & 99/184

Dear Stakeholder

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS PROCESSES -
CONIFEROUS SAWN TIMBER AND LOGS FROM NORTH AMERICA
AND
WOOD PACKING MATERIALS FROM ASIA**

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the outcome of the second round of consultation on the import risk analyses (IRAs) concerning:

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

In our letter of 27 October 1999 stakeholders were invited to provide written comments on the proposed Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) membership, the scope and the timing of these IRAs. The responses received have now been considered by AQIS.

Stakeholders who provided comments did not raise concerns regarding the scope and timing of the IRA. While stakeholders in general supported the proposed panel it was suggested by some that the RAP for these IRAs should include expertise in forest pathology. One stakeholder also suggested that the RAP should include an industry representative.

The AQIS Executive Director has therefore determined that Mr Jack Simpson, Senior Forest Pathologist, NSW Forestry be included on the RAP. Mr Simpson is a leading timber pathologist in Australia with particular expertise in wood decay fungi. Regarding industry representation in determining the composition of the panel, membership is based on relevant scientific expertise and, where possible, members being independent from, or not closely aligned with, any particular industry group.

The final 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

Jack Simpson
Senior Forest Pathologist
NSW Forestry

Stakeholders now have fifteen days to appeal the Executive Director's determination in relation to the scope, timing, panel membership and approach for this IRA. Appeals should be sent to the Director of Quarantine at the following address by the close of business Wednesday 9 February.

The Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Following the finalisation of the RAP the members will meet to agree on the work program and to decide what Technical Working Groups (TWG's) are necessary to work on specific aspects of the IRA. The RAP will decide on the terms of reference and membership for any TWG's.

The RAP will ensure that appropriately qualified staff, including those with knowledge of the industry, are engaged as necessary to conduct the technical analyses. TWG(s) members will be available to provide technical advice to the RAP throughout the IRA process and their pest risk analysis will form the basis of the IRA.

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 IRA Secretariat at the address on the previous page. Information on all IRAs being conducted by the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is available on the AQIS Homepage.

AQIS expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to this consultation phase.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stynes
Assistant Director
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch

24 January 2000