



1 July 2004

**PLANT BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2004/20**

**EXTENSION TO COMMENT PERIOD FOR REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS  
REPORT - BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

This Plant Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (PBPM) is to notify stakeholders of an extension to the comment period for the revised Draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report for the importation of bananas from the Philippines. The comment period now closes on 15 September 2004.

The import risk analysis for bananas from the Philippines is currently at the stage of seeking stakeholder comments on the revised Draft IRA Report as amended by the Addendum. The comment period on a draft report is a vital part of Australia's IRA process because it is designed to elicit feedback - technical comments from stakeholders and any new scientific information that may assist the analysis.

The Australian Banana Growers Council (ABGC) has recently requested a 30-day extension to the comment period for the revised Draft IRA Report because the release of the Addendum coincided with pre-existing work commitments for their chief scientific consultant. Biosecurity Australia has agreed to this request and an additional 30 days has been allowed for stakeholders to provide comment on the revised Draft IRA Report – the comment period will now close on 15 September 2004.

Yesterday ABGC provided input to the banana IRA, relaying comments from their statistical consultants at the Queensland University of Technology. Biosecurity Australia has sought a meeting with ABGC and their consultant statisticians to discuss the technical issues that they have raised.

Biosecurity Australia welcomes input from all stakeholders on draft reports as it allows us to refine the analyses we do. Stakeholder comments are being placed on the public file for the banana IRA as they are received.

At the end of the comment period on the draft analysis, the IRA Team will consider all stakeholder comments and any other scientific information that comes to hand. If the IRA Team considers that significant changes to the draft quarantine measures should be recommended then there will be further consultation with stakeholders.

The revised Draft IRA Report and Addendum are available at [www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia](http://www.daff.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia). Copies in either printed or CD ROM format can also be requested from Technical and Administrative Services.

Comments on the revised Draft IRA Report, as amended by the Addendum should be submitted by 15 September 2004 to the following address:

Technical and Administrative Services  
Plant Biosecurity  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Tel: (02) 6272 5094  
Fax: (02) 6272 3307  
Email: [plantbiosec@daff.gov.au](mailto:plantbiosec@daff.gov.au)

### **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 1988*.

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 1982*.

### **Consultation**

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to Technical and Administrative Services.

Information on all IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Plant Biosecurity is available on the Internet at [www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity](http://www.daff.gov.au/plantbiosecurity).

Brian Stynes  
General Manager  
Plant Biosecurity

Contact: Technical and Administrative Services  
Tel: 02 6272 5094  
Fax: 02 6272 3307  
Email: [plantbiosec@daff.gov.au](mailto:plantbiosec@daff.gov.au)