



AQIS 20811NESB

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AQIS REMINDS NORTHERN SUMMER TRAVELLERS TO DECLARE QUARANTINE ITEMS

As summer in the northern hemisphere approaches, many German-Australians will be travelling overseas on holidays. It is especially important that these holiday travellers remember Australia's strict quarantine laws when arriving back home.

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) officers will be busy checking the luggage of the travelling public entering the country at all of Australia's major international airports. Most inspected items will be returned, but some may need to be treated (at the traveller's expense) or confiscated.

When returning from Germany don't forget to declare all food, plant material and animal products such as sausages and other meat products, honey, seeds, fresh fruit and dairy products on your Incoming Passenger Card.

You must also declare items - such as shoes and sporting gear - that could be carrying soil or other organic material as they could cause damage to Australia's eco system.

Not complying with Australian quarantine laws can be a costly mistake.

If you are caught with undeclared items, you run the risk of being prosecuted as one traveller found out - a passenger that recently entered Australia was sentenced in court in relation to 1600gms of fresh lychees. The conviction, fine and costs were \$3400 in total.

Before leaving Australia, you can:

- contact your travel agent for a free copy of the brochure *What can't I take into Australia?* in German;
- visit www.aqis.gov.au/german; or
- call AQIS on 1800 020 504 (free call within Australia).

Remember when returning to Australia, you must:

- correctly fill out the Incoming Passenger Card;
- declare and present for inspection all food, plant material, animal products and items used in freshwater streams or lakes; and
- place items that need to be declared in an easily accessible part of their luggage.

