

Letter as sent to stakeholder on 21 June 1999

99/1823 & 99/184

Dear Stakeholder

**IMPORT RISK ANALYSES ON CONIFEROUS SAWN TIMBER AND LOGS
FROM NORTH AMERICA AND WOOD PACKAGING MATERIALS FROM
ASIA**

I am writing to formally notify you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has established a need to conduct reviews of quarantine requirements for:

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

These reviews will require consideration under the *Quarantine Act 1908* and the *Quarantine Proclamation 1998*.

This advice is for information only. AQIS will decide whether import risk analyses (IRAs) should be initiated as a matter of priority. AQIS will prioritise the proposals taking into account factors such as the availability of data, the order of receipt of proposals, the breadth and nature of interest in the establishment of new or revised conditions, the need to consider access by a particular date (for example, for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games) as well as stakeholder comment. The priority assigned by AQIS to the conduct of the risk analyses on the proposals is not subject to appeal.

In accordance with the IRA process outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, stakeholders may now, if they wish, offer information and comment on the priority that they consider should be accorded by AQIS to these proposals. Separate comments for each IRA should be forwarded separately to the IRA Secretariat at the following address by close of business Monday 12 July:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307

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*.

AQIS will establish a public file, containing the non-confidential stakeholder comments and technical documentation, at the commencement of each IRA. The factors taken into account by AQIS in prioritising a particular proposal will be identified in a statement placed on the public file for that proposal. These files will be held at AQIS headquarters in Canberra and will be available to stakeholders during business hours for perusal and copying. Please contact the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch IRA Secretariat at the above address if you wish to make an appointment to view the IRA public files. Information on all IRAs that the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is currently conducting is also available on the AQIS homepage.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for these IRAs, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the above address. I ask that peak industry groups who receive this letter keep their affiliates informed of this IRA process.

AQIS will be writing to you again in the near future to advise of the priority accorded to these IRAs. I look forward to your participation in the IRA process.

Yours sincerely

Bill Magee
A/g Assistant Director
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch

21 June 1999