



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



6 August 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/37 IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PIG MEAT

PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a progress report on, and the next steps to be taken in, the pig meat Import Risk Analysis (IRA).

In January 2001, the technical issues paper for the pig meat IRA was released for public comment (ABPM 2001/02). Ten stakeholders commented on the paper. Stakeholder comments are on the Public File held in Biosecurity Australia's office in Canberra. Please contact the officer below if you wish to view the file.

Since the release of the technical issues paper, the Risk Analysis Panel has met formally on a number of occasions to consider the stakeholder comments and to develop the draft IRA report, the next formal consultation step. The last meeting was held in Canberra on 22 July 2002. Previously, on 2 July and 3 July, the panel visited a variety of pig enterprises in Victoria, including an outdoor farm, an abattoir, a boning room, a smallgoods processing plant, and a rendering plant. The objective was to ensure that all panel members were conversant with outdoor rearing techniques. The visits also assisted in the consideration of the exposure pathways and consequence assessments in the IRA.

Other activities include the commissioning of further research by Biosecurity Australia on Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) virus at Lelystad in the Netherlands. PRRS is an OIE List B disease and has been identified as a hazard for further risk assessment in the IRA. The results of the previous Lelystad research, demonstrating that transmission of PRRS virus could occur via the feeding of meat to pigs, were contained in ABPM 2001/25.

The IRA is following the *IRA Guidelines*, a template for developing IRA reports, established by Biosecurity Australia. A copy of the Guidelines is available from Biosecurity Australia's website (www.affa.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia - follow the links to 'IRAs' and then 'review of IRA process'). The panel has devoted considerable time to considering the methods for evaluating the disease risks, including the release and exposure pathways.

Next Steps

The Risk Analysis Panel is working on a discussion paper that will be circulated to stakeholders for information and comment prior to the draft IRA report. The paper will set out the panel's approach to the method for undertaking the risk analysis. In particular, it will outline the release and exposure pathways, and the establishment and spread scenarios considered to be of importance in assessing the risk associated with importation of pig meat.

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The panel is continuing to develop the draft IRA report which will then be circulated for 60 days for public comment.

Biosecurity Australia would welcome any comments on this ABPM.

Please pass this circular to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on these matters they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal 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.

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.

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