



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



11 July 2002

## **ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/35**

### **OUTCOME OF QUARANTINE REVIEW: ASTEROID SAMPLE**

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) notifies stakeholders of the outcome of the quarantine review that will allow the return of a small amount (a few grams) of an asteroid sample into Woomera Prohibited Area in Australia as part of the MUSES-C space mission (Attachment A).

On 5 June 2002, Biosecurity Australia released a draft of its quarantine review (ABPM 2002/28). This was in response to a formal access request from the Japanese government to bring a small amount (a few grams) of an asteroid sample into Woomera Prohibited Area in Australia as part of the MUSES-C space mission.

Six stakeholders responded. Comments received on the draft have led to the following:

- . addition of details on
  - the existing quarantine import requirements for rocks, minerals and soil; and
  - the rationale for the separate consideration of return samples.
- . Amendments to address recent changes to the United Nations Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) structure.
- . Recognition that the landing site on the asteroid is likely to have sufficient light for photosynthesis (but only if there is air and water available).
- . Increased flexibility of the proposed landing zone within the Woomera Prohibited Zone.

A copy of the final review can be obtained either on request from Biosecurity Australia or from the following web address:

[http://affa.gov.au/corporate\\_docs/publications/word/market\\_access/biosecurity/animal/2002/2002-35a.doc](http://affa.gov.au/corporate_docs/publications/word/market_access/biosecurity/animal/2002/2002-35a.doc)

Biosecurity Australia has established requirements for the secure containment, transport and export of the sample and treatment of surrounding soil, machinery and equipment. The biosecurity risks are considered to be extremely low to negligible.

#### **Next step**

These conditions will take effect immediately. We would be grateful if you would pass details of this notice to other interested parties, who should advise the contact officer if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.



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## **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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