



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

Annual Regulatory Plan 2011-12

Part 1: Past Regulatory Activities 2010-11

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Part 1: Past Regulatory Activities 2010-11

Biosecurity

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Export Control (Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products) Orders 2010</i>
Description of issue	<p>The National Competition Policy Review of the <i>Export Control Act 1982</i> recommended a review of all subordinate legislation under the Act, including the <i>Game, Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders 1985</i> (GPRMOs).</p> <p>The review of the GPRMOs determined that a separate order should be developed to regulate the production of wild game meat and wild game meat products for export for food. The <i>Export Control (Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products) Orders 2010</i> (the Order) applies to wild game animals and to all businesses engaged in the production of wild game meat and wild game meat products for export for food.</p> <p>The Order meets industry and government objectives in providing a commodity-specific instrument that recognises Australian standards and international requirements to ensure that the wild game meat and wild game meat products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are wholesome or are identified as requiring further processing to be fit for human consumption - meet requirements to have an accurate trade description - meet the importing country requirements necessary to maintain market eligibility - are traceable, can be recalled if required and have their integrity assured, and - are derived from animals that are treated humanely during harvest.
Date of effect	1 December 2010
Contact details	General Manager, Food Biosecurity Food Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Export Control (Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products) Orders 2010</i>
Description of issue	<p>The National Competition Policy Review of the <i>Export Control Act 1982</i> recommended a review of all subordinate legislation, including the <i>Game, Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders 1985</i> (GPRMOs).</p> <p>The review of the GPRMOs determined that a separate order be developed to regulate the production of poultry meat and poultry meat products for export for food. The <i>Export Control (Poultry Meat and Poultry Meat Products) Orders 2010</i> (the Order) applies to poultry and to all businesses engaged in the production of poultry meat and poultry meat products for export for food.</p> <p>The Order is intended to meet industry and government objectives in providing a commodity-specific instrument that recognises Australian standards and international requirements to ensure that the poultry meat and poultry meat products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - are wholesome or are identified as requiring further processing to be fit for human consumption - meet requirements to have an accurate trade description - meet the importing country requirements necessary to maintain market eligibility - are traceable, can be recalled if required and have their integrity assured - are derived from animals that are treated humanely during preparation and production activities.
Date of effect	1 December 2010
Contact details	General Manager, Food Biosecurity Food Division Ph: 02 6272 5589 Fax: 02 6272 3567

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charges) Regulations 1985 Game, Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders 1985 Export Control (Fees) Orders 2001</i>
Description of issue	As a result of the <i>Export Control (Poultry and Poultry Meat Products) Orders 2010</i> and <i>Export Control (Wild Game Meat and Wild Game Meat Products) Orders 2010</i> it was necessary to make consequential amendments to the <i>Export Inspection (Establishment Registration Charges) Regulations 1985</i> , <i>Game, Poultry and Rabbit Meat Orders 1985</i> and <i>Export Control (Fees) Orders 2001</i> .
Date of effect	1 December 2010
Contact details	General Manager, Food Biosecurity Food Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Export Control (Protection of Animal Welfare) Order 2011</i> <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Protection of Animal Welfare) Order 2011</i>
Description of issue	<p>The purpose of the <i>Export Control (Protection of Animal Welfare) Order 2011</i> (ECPAW Order) was to address concerns regarding slaughter of live-stock at specific places listed in the ECPAW Order.</p> <p>The <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Protection of Animal Welfare) Order 2011</i> complemented the ECPAW Order and made it a condition of a live-stock licence that the holder must not export live-stock to any of the listed places and required that a licence holder must provide to the Secretary, prior to exporting live-stock, evidence that the holder had taken reasonable steps to ensure that the live-stock would not be taken to any of the places, and evidence that they were not intended to be taken to any of those places.</p> <p>These Orders were repealed by the <i>Export Control Repeal Order 2011</i> and the <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011 (No. 2)</i> respectively.</p>
Date of effect	Commenced 2 July 2011 Repealed on 7 July 2011
Contact details	General Manager, Legislation Branch Biosecurity Strategic Projects Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Export Control (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011</i> <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011</i>
Description of issue	<p>The purpose of the <i>Export Control (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011</i> (ECELI Order) was to suspend the export of live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia for a period of 6 months from the date of commencement of the ECELI Order. The suspension period enabled the Australian Government to develop a robust regulatory and compliance regime to address concerns regarding slaughter of live-stock in the Republic of Indonesia.</p> <p>The <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011</i> complements the ECELI Order and makes it a condition of a live-stock export licence that the licence holder must not export live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia.</p> <p>These Orders were repealed by the <i>Export Control Repeal Order 2011</i> and the <i>Australian Meat and Live-stock Industry (Export of Live-stock to the Republic of Indonesia) Order 2011 (No. 2)</i> respectively.</p>
Date of effect	Commenced 2 July 2011 Repealed 7 July 2011
Contact details	General Manager, Legislation Branch Biosecurity Strategic Projects Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933

Agricultural Productivity

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Act 2010</i>
Description of issue	<p>The <i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Act 2010</i> made a number of amendments to the <i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980</i> (AWBC Act), as it was then known. These amendments can be broken down into three categories; amendments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Australia – European Community Agreement on Trade in Wine and provide rules, among other things, for the protection of foreign country geographical indications (GIs), translations of foreign country GIs, traditional expressions, Australian quality wine terms and other additional terms. Significantly, the amendments provide a determination process for foreign country GIs and translations of GIs; • The Label Integrity Program (LIP) to provide that those involved in the production, distribution and sale of wine and grapes used to make wine must keep a record of the date of receipt, quantity, vintage, variety, GI and the identity of the supplier (or recipient) of those goods; and • Compliance provisions to strengthen the Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation's (AWBC) ability to stop a person from engaging in action that may be contrary to the AWBC Act. The amendments also enabled the AWBC to pass on information obtained under the AWBC Act to others who may have a role in enforcing laws relating to wine and health. <p>Regulation Impact Statements were prepared in relation to the LIP and wine agreement amendments.</p> <p>Click here to go to the Act.</p>
Date of effect	1 September 2010
Contact details	<p>Manager, Wine Policy & Industry Codes Agricultural Productivity Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1)</i> <i>Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1)</i> <i>Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1)</i>
Description of issue	<p>The Regulations cited above bring into effect an ad valorem levy rate on ginger growers of a half of one per cent (0.5%) on the sale of fresh ginger, seed ginger, organic ginger and ginger for processing, to be collected at the first domestic point of sale.</p> <p>Exemptions apply to fresh ginger sold on the export market, ginger sold direct to the public through farmers markets and roadside stalls and seed ginger used by seed producers to grow their own ginger.</p> <p>Click here for a copy of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Explanatory Statement (levy), Explanatory Statement (RIRDC), • the Regulations [the Primary Industries (Excise) Levies Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1) and the Primary Industries Levies and Charges Collection Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1) and the RIRDC Amendment Regulations 2011 (No. 1)]; and • the Regulation Impact Statement (OBPR ID 11249). <p>The Australian ginger industry requested the new research and development (R&D) levy on ginger growers to be introduced and be paid to the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation. The aim is to establish a consistent source of funding for R&D requirements identified by the industry, including measures to control diseases and pests.</p>
Date of effect	The primary industries levy on the production of ginger commenced on 1 April 2011.
Contact details	Manager, Horticulture Policy Section Crops, Horticulture and Wine Branch Agricultural Productivity Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Amendment Regulations 2011 (No.1)</i>
Description of issue	<p>Amendments to the Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Regulations 1995 have been made to give effect to the <i>Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Code Amendment Act 2010</i>.</p> <p>To accompany the labelling-reform related amendments, these amendments prescribe the particulars that are required to be included on the label for a container for a chemical product. These particulars are determined by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) in its assessment of the application for label approval. The regulations also prescribe conditions for the approval of a label, including that a label meet the requirements of a labelling standard, which the APVMA will draft as a legislative instrument to control the presentation of the label.</p> <p>To accompany the reforms to APVMA assessment of some low risk, minor variations to approvals and registrations, amended regulations set out the fee and time frame for determining these applications. The regulations also prescribe the information that is not to be included in the definition of confidential commercial information.</p>
Date of effect	10 March 2011
Contact details	<p>Manager, Early Harvest Reforms and APVMA Reforms Agvet Chemicals and Farm Leadership Programs Branch Agricultural Productivity Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>

Type of entry	Past change
Title	<i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Regulations 2010</i>
Description of issue	<p>The <i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Amendment Regulations 2010</i> made a number of amendments to the <i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Regulations 1981</i>, as it was then known. These amendments implement the Australia – European Community Agreement on Trade in Wine and reflect amendments to the <i>Australian Wine and Brandy Corporation Act 1980</i>, as it was then known, related to the Label Integrity Program.</p> <p>Click here to go to the Regulations.</p>
Date of effect	1 September 2010
Contact details	<p>Manager, Wine Policy & Industry Codes Agricultural Productivity Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>

Part 2: Planned Regulatory Activities 2011-12

Biosecurity

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Biosecurity Legislation to replace the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i> and related legislation
Description of issue	<p>The Independent Review of Australia's Quarantine and Biosecurity Arrangements (Beale Review) found that the current <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i> and related legislation is cumbersome and not conducive to managing contemporary biosecurity risks. It recommended that the Act be replaced. The Australian Government announced in December 2008 its in-principle agreement to this recommendation.</p> <p>The proposed new Biosecurity Act is intended to streamline biosecurity management and make it both easier for the regulator to administer and for industry to comply with. It will enable broader and more flexible co-regulatory arrangements to increase ease of compliance for industry, modernise offences and penalties to support an effective compliance scheme, and provide for a simpler and more user friendly legislative framework for both industry and the regulator. New subordinate legislation to support the proposed Biosecurity Act will also be developed.</p>
Consultation opportunities	An exposure draft of the proposed Bill will be released for public comment. It is proposed to invite submissions on the draft and to hold a series of meetings with stakeholders to discuss the Bill once it is released. The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has set up two small groups of industry stakeholders to aid it in the development of the legislation. This follows the consultation process conducted by the Beale Review in which it received 220 submissions and held more than 170 meetings. Consultation will also occur on the development of subordinate legislation.
Expected timetable	The Bill is expected to be introduced into Parliament in 2012.
Contact details	General Manager, Legislation Branch Biosecurity Strategic Projects Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Horse Disease Response Levy Bill 2011 Horse Disease Response Levy Collection Bill 2011 Horse Disease Response (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011
Description of issue	<p>The government and livestock industry cost sharing deed for emergency animal disease responses (also known as the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement or EADR Agreement) commenced in March 2002. The EADR Agreement sets out roles and responsibilities in a response and how costs will be shared.</p> <p>These arrangements enable Australia to respond quickly and efficiently to a disease outbreak to minimise the potential impact of the disease on agricultural production, valuable exports, the environment and public health. Livestock industries also receive considerable benefits from timely outbreak responses in terms of continued trade and market access, and through minimisation of livestock losses and production cost losses.</p> <p>In December 2010 Animal Health Australia, on behalf of the horse industry, submitted a request to the Commonwealth that levies be imposed on manufactured horse feed and worm treatments intended for horses and initially set at a zero rate.</p> <p>These levy funding mechanisms will enable the horse industry to meet its obligations under the EADR Agreement.</p> <p>The horse disease response levy bills are required to establish the legislative framework for imposition and collection of the levies, which will be set at nil, and only raised should the horse industry be required to pay back the Commonwealth for a response to an emergency disease outbreak affecting horses.</p>
Consultation opportunities	<p>The horse industry undertook extensive industry-wide consultation in preparing its levy submission. The proposal reflects the preferences of the industry.</p> <p>The Stock Feed Manufacturers Council of Australia, the Animal Health Alliance and the Veterinary Manufacturers and Distributors Association were consulted prior to the introduction of the legislation and will continue to be consulted and engaged.</p>
Expected timetable	The bills were introduced into the House of Representatives on 6 July and will be debated during the spring 2011 sitting.
Contact details	General Manager, Partnerships Branch, Strategic Projects Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	<i>Export Control (Meat and Meat Products) Amendment Orders 2011</i>
Description of issue	<p>The amending orders involve new policy or practice, relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inclusion of an objective on Animal Welfare - inclusion of disposition powers covering product that has breached product integrity requirements - reintroduction of the single system of Halal certification by government, at the request of industry. <p>Other amendments involve mechanical changes, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - correction of typographical and grammatical errors, and rephrasing of the refrigeration provisions to address misinterpretation in the field - consequential amendments as a result of amendments to the technical document, Australian Standard for the Hygienic Product and Transportation of Meat and Meat Products for Human Consumption – AS 4696:2007 - harmonising administrative sections of the Orders to gain consistency with other commodity orders - the removal of a number of penalties.
Consultation opportunities	The export meat industry, through the Export Meat Industry Advisory Committee (EMIAC) and particularly the Australian Meat Industry Council, has been fully consulted to reach agreement on the new policies. Consultation with the Halal Industry Consultative Committee has also been undertaken.
Expected timetable	Commencement of the proposed Order is dependent upon receiving final feedback from the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC).
Contact details	General Manager, Food Biosecurity Food Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	<i>Imported Food Control Amendment Order 2011 (No. 1)</i>
Description of issue	<p>The proposed amendment to the <i>Imported Food Control Order 2001</i> will give effect to previous undertakings of closer economic relations between Australia and New Zealand by bringing a number of foods under the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement</p> <p>The <i>Imported Food Control Amendment Order 2011 (No. 1)</i> (the Order) will bring appropriate foods under the operation of the <i>Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Act 1997</i> (TTMRA) by no longer identifying them as risk food.</p> <p>Work undertaken by officials from Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry found that New Zealand and Australia recognised and managed the food safety risks associated with these foods in the same manner. On the findings of this work both countries decided to cease border inspection of certain foods by bring them under the TTMRA.</p> <p>The effect of the Order bringing appropriate risk foods under the TTMRA will be to reduce unnecessary regulatory intervention for foods traded between Australia and New Zealand whilst continuing to protect public health and safety. Both countries operate domestic and imported food safety control systems which recognise the risks posed by these foods.</p>
Consultation opportunities	Food Standards Australia New Zealand was consulted with respect to the requirements for bringing the foods under the TTMRA and for the addition of raw milk products and brown seaweed as risk foods.
Expected timetable	The amendment package is currently pending approval.
Contact details	General Manager, Residues and Food Safety Biosecurity Food Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Review of export legislation
Description of issue	<p>The Government funded \$127.4 million for the implementation of the Export Certification Reform Package (ECRP) until 30 June 2011, to improve the efficiency of the export certification system, and improve market access. This funding applied to the dairy, fish, grain, horticulture, live animal and meat export sectors.</p> <p>Some projects are still outstanding, including changes to fees and charges legislation. The timing of legislative changes may differ for each of the six commodities, and are subject to consultation with the affected industries.</p>
Consultation opportunities	<p>Extensive consultation has been undertaken with the joint industry-AQIS Ministerial Taskforces. Each Taskforce liaises with their relevant stakeholders, through various mechanisms, such as progress reports, issues papers calling for comments, face to face meetings etc.</p> <p>An ECRP Communication Strategy has been developed and put in place to provide structure to communication activities. More specific communication goals are being articulated and implemented by the Taskforces.</p>
Expected timetable	Finalisation and commencement of the proposed legislative amends is contingent upon further negotiation with each industry sector.
Contact details	<p>General Manager, Export Reform Branch Biosecurity Food Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	The Australian Biofouling Management Requirements
Description of issue	<p>The purpose of the Australian Biofouling Management Requirements (the requirements) is to reduce the risk of an introduction through biofouling of a potentially high impact marine pest to Australia. It is envisaged that once the requirements come into effect all vessels entering Australian waters will need to be free from quarantinable biofouling pests. The requirements will be enacted under the <i>Quarantine Act 1908</i>.</p> <p>The requirements and the list of quarantinable biofouling pests (yet to be finalised) are supported by a risk assessment process that considered species-specific risks and relative risks posed by vessels. The risk assessment was finalised late 2010. As at July 2011, the regulation impact statement is in the drafting stages.</p> <p>Implementation of the biofouling requirements will give effect to Australian Government commitments under the National System for the Prevention and Management of Marine Pest Incursions.</p>
Consultation opportunities	<p>To date, extensive consultation has occurred with key stakeholders in the development of the proposed requirements. Formal public consultation on a regulatory impact statement (RIS) is planned to begin in October 2011 and be included in the consultation process for the new Biosecurity Legislation.</p> <p>The key messages that will be conveyed during the consultation process include the marine pest risk; why a regulatory approach is preferred; the intention of a risk reduction approach; what consultation has and will be undertaken before implementation; and the implications and benefits of these requirements for industry.</p> <p>The RIS will be formally presented for consultation to stakeholders that are likely to be directly affected by the requirements, via face to face meetings and through industry peak body representatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from relevant State, Northern Territory, and Australian Government agencies • Petroleum production and exploration industry • Commercial shipping industry • Ports • Non-trading industry (e.g. barges, dredges and ferries) • National Bulk Commodities Group • Commercial fishing industry • Recreational vessels and light commercial industry <p>This RIS will be available for review and comment through established communication channels to stakeholders that are likely to be indirectly affected by the requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipping agents • Marina associations • Dry dock and slipway operators • Antifouling paint companies • Ship designers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boating Industry Associations <p>An issues paper will be prepared to support the consultation process and contain elements of the RIS to outline the problem, the objectives, options (including a preferred option), potentially affected stakeholders, and a summary impact analysis. In addition, this issues paper will make it clear where stakeholder input is especially valued to encourage focussed feedback. The risk assessment will be released with the RIS as part of the formal consultation period.</p>
Expected timetable	<p>Formal public consultation on the RIS (including the preferred policy approach) is planned to begin in October 2011. The public consultation period will be open for 6-8 weeks. Consideration of submissions and required amendments to the RIS is scheduled for completion within 4 weeks after the completion of the public consultation period.</p> <p>It is expected that the department will be in a position to deliver a policy to the minister for consideration in December 2011.</p> <p>It is expected that the requirements will be introduced into Parliament in 2012.</p>
Contact details	<p>Manager, Invasive Marine Species Program Biosecurity Animal Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>
Date last modified	<p>25 July 2011</p>

Fisheries

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	<i>Fisheries Management Amendment Regulations 2011 – Infringement Notice Regime</i>
Description of issue	The regulations intend to provide the Australian Fisheries Management Authority (AFMA) with more flexibility in applying infringement notices. AFMA will have the power to set higher level infringement penalties but also have the discretion to choose to penalise at a lesser rate for relatively minor offences.
Consultation opportunities	Stakeholders have had the opportunity to provide input to the development of the proposed amendments. In addition, stakeholders will have the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations.
Expected timetable	2011
Contact details	Manager, Legislation and Governance, Fisheries Branch Sustainable Resource Management Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	22 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Northern Prawn Fishery Management Plan 2012
Description of issue	The new plan will facilitate the transition to output controls in the form of individually transferable quota.
Consultation opportunities	Consultation has occurred through the Management Advisory Committee and through the industry association.
Expected timetable	mid 2012
Contact details	Manager, Legislation and Governance, Fisheries Branch Sustainable Resource Management Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	22 July 2011

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Implementation of a statutory research and development levy for the Australian mussel aquaculture industry
Description of issue	The Australian Mussel Industry Association has made a formal submission to the department to implement a statutory research and development levy on mussel growers. The objective of the levy proposal is to enable the mussel industry to establish a consistent and equitable source of funding for research and development requirements identified by industry. The mussel sector is one of the few sectors of the Australian fishing industry that do not currently collect industry contributions for research and development.
Consultation opportunities	<p>During the development of the levy proposal, Australian Mussel Industry Association has consulted directly with and received positive support for the establishment of a research and development levy from a majority of Australian Mussel Industry Association members and industry growers. Australian Mussel Industry Association has also worked closely with the Fisheries Research Development Corporation. The Department has reviewed the levy submission and consider that Australian Mussel Industry Association has adequately addressed the department's levy principles and guidelines consultation requirements.</p> <p>The department also separately wrote to all licence holders (via relevant state fisheries agencies) to inform all potential levy payers about the proposal and to seek industry comment on the proposed levy. Further consultation may be undertaken with stakeholders if required.</p>
Expected timetable	2012
Contact details	<p>Manager, Legislation and Governance Fisheries Branch Sustainable Resource Management Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>
Date last modified	22 July 2011

Agricultural Productivity

Type of entry	Planned regulatory change
Title	Better regulation of agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals
Description of issue	<p>The overall objective of the better regulation reforms is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system for agvet chemical regulation, while maintaining a high level of protection for human health and the environment.</p> <p>The package of reforms will include the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – A re-registration system for all agvet chemicals in Australia, which will utilise a three staged approach to ensure resources within industry and the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) are focused on those chemicals with the highest risks. – A comprehensive, publicly available, risk framework to increase transparency in the system and further allow industry and the APVMA to target risk using limited resources, more effectively. – Establishment of clear legislated timeframes for the completion of assessments and reviews to provide certainty to business and the community about review periods. – Improved data protection to encourage submission of appropriate data at relevant stages of the assessment, re-registration and review processes.
Consultation opportunities	<p>Consultation with the states, territories and other stakeholders included the release of a discussion paper in November 2011. The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) found the regulation impact statement adequate, with the OBPR reference number for this activity being 11523. A draft Bill is being prepared for consultation with the states and territories and other stakeholders.</p>
Expected timetable	<p>Draft Bill will be released for public consultation in mid 2011, prior to anticipated introduction late in the Spring 2011 session.</p>
Contact details	<p>Manager, Early Harvest Reforms and APVMA Reforms Agvet Chemicals and Farm Leadership Programs Branch Agricultural Productivity Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933</p>
Date last modified	26 July 2011

Climate Change

Type of entry	Planned activity
Title	Illegal Logging Prohibition Bill
Description of issue	Illegal logging causes significant social, economic and environmental problems in developing countries. The problem is further exacerbated through lack of measures in consumer countries to restrict or prohibit the importation of illegally logged timber and wood products. Major consumer countries, such as the United States and European Union, have, or are putting in place measures to prevent trade in illegally logged timber products. The Australian government is developing similar legislation to restrict the importation of illegally logged timber as part of a plurilateral approach to the global problem of illegal logging.
Consultation opportunities	The department has consulted widely with internal and external stakeholders, including through an illegal logging inter-departmental committee, a comprehensive stakeholder consultation process under an illegal logging regulation impact assessment process and currently through regular meetings with an illegal logging stakeholder working group.
Expected timetable	Legislation is being developed for tabling in the spring 2011.
Contact details	General Manager, Forestry Branch, Climate Change Division Ph: +61 2 6272 3933
Date last modified	25 July 2011

Part 3: Consultation Plan

Through its client service charter, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry promises to provide high quality professional service, programs and policy advice to its stakeholders. Consultation provides the foundation for the relationship between the department and its stakeholders.

When drafting legislation and regulations, the department takes consultation seriously. The department consults widely, where possible, before making decisions to ensure transparency regarding decisions that affect stakeholders.

Active and open communication is undertaken at various stages of the development of regulatory proposals. The department's Annual Regulatory Plan outlines specific opportunities for consultation available for forthcoming regulatory proposals.

Consultations plans exist to provide certainty and transparency about proposed changes. The main objectives of the consultations are to raise awareness of regulatory changes and obtain information and feedback from stakeholders to improve outcomes.

Consultative practices lead to positive outcomes for the department and its stakeholders, including quality decision making, greater stakeholder satisfaction, successful implementation and good governance.