



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry



Australia's Import Risk Analysis Process Compared and Contrasted

Mary Harwood
Executive Manager
Biosecurity Australia



Biosecurity ⇔ Quarantine

“Prevention or control of the **introduction, establishment or spread** of diseases or pests that will or could **cause significant damage** to human beings, animals, plants, and other aspects of the environment or economic activities”



Australia's approach to quarantine policy

- **managed-risk (not zero-risk) approach**
- **reduce risk of entry, establishment or spread of exotic pests and diseases to a very low level**
- **policy underpinned by science**
 - **using a transparent import risk analysis process**



Risk

= **likelihood** * **consequences**

(probability)

(impact)





Biosecurity Risk

- **level of biosecurity risk** is the basis of Australian quarantine decision-making
- consider the level of **risk** and take actions to **manage** the risk if it is **unacceptably high**



Biosecurity Risk

- the probability of a disease or pest being introduced, established or spread in Australia and causing harm to human beings, animals, plants, other aspects of the environment, or economic activities; and
- the probable extent of that harm



Australian Import Risk Analysis Process

- Science-based
 - Teams selected for expertise
 - Use of external experts
 - Peer review
- Transparent
 - Informs all stakeholders on register
 - Web-based information and public file for each IRA
 - Open, documented process and methodology
 - Consultation at key milestones





Import Risk Analysis

Initiation

Hazard Identification

Risk Assessment

Risk Management

IRA finalisation

Implementation

Monitoring/review



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Communication

- **regular advice on IRA work program**
 - **web page**
 - **newsletter**
- **early involvement of States / Territories**
 - **work program**
 - **regional risk/pest status issues**
 - **relevant scientific expertise**
- **early involvement of Department of Environment and Heritage**
- **early and ongoing engagement with stakeholders**
 - **on draft documents**
 - **through public meetings**



Communication

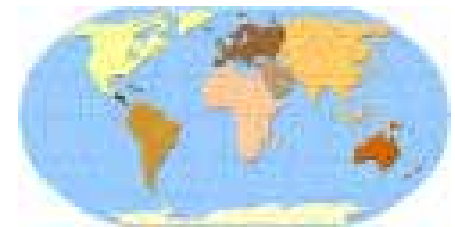
- Early engagement
- Understanding IRA process
- Focus on draft quarantine conditions
- Communicating complex science
- Communicating managed risk & uncertainty
- Summaries essential





Why the pressure on Australia's IRA process?

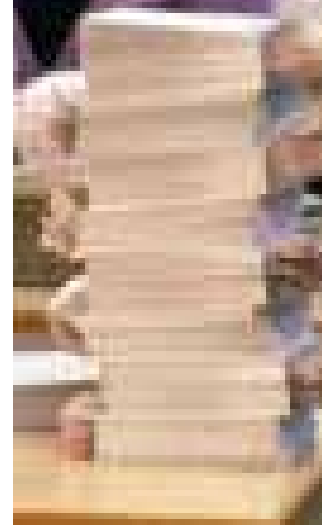
- favourable pest & disease status
- wide climatic (host) range
- significant agricultural exports, with many in unprocessed form
- attractive market
- community and industry expectation of strong quarantine





Science under the spotlight

- imperfect information
- emerging diseases
- differing scientific opinion
- peer review – who to use?
- what is 'best practice' science?
- variability and uncertainty in biological systems
- how much information is enough?
- when to do research?
- thoroughness vs timeliness





Challenges ahead

Risk analysis

- **an evolving and complex science under a legal spotlight**
 - **risk management**
 - relating measures to assessed risk
 - least trade restrictive
 - **quarantine tools**
 - new technologies



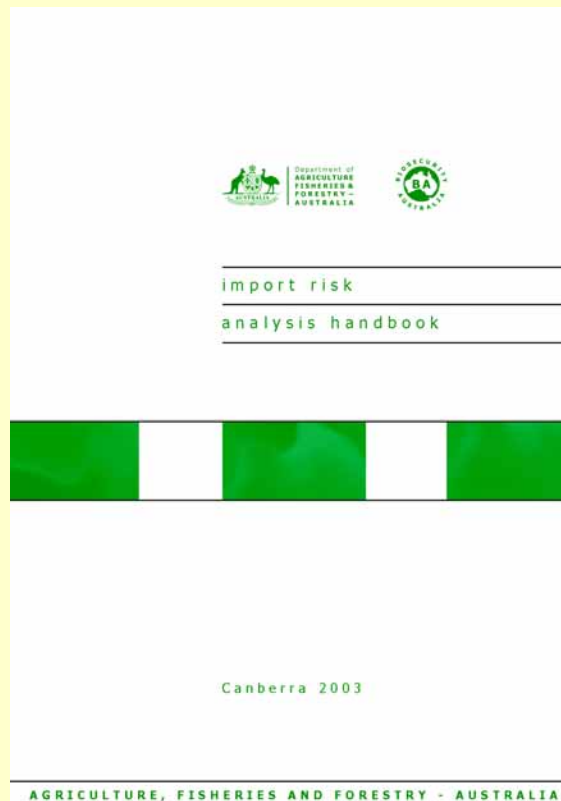
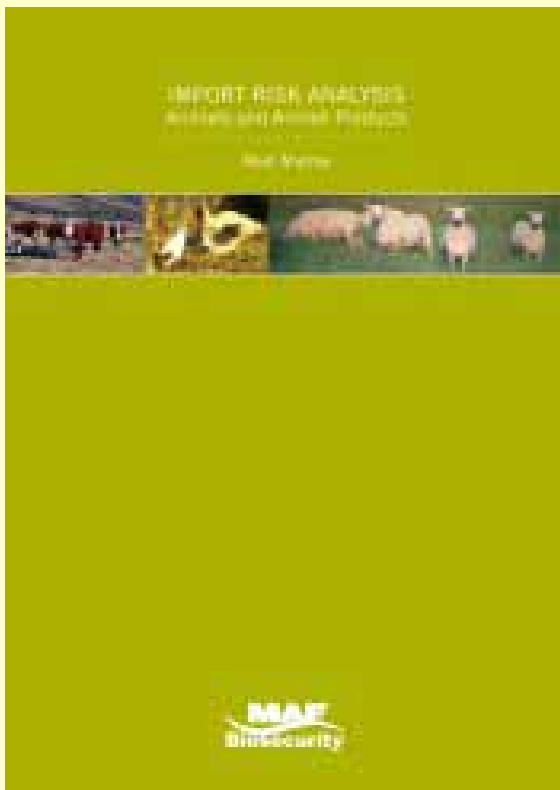
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Secretariat of the Pacific Community

Import Risk Analysis





IRA process - comparisons

- Compare like with like
 - Timeliness
 - Transparency
 - Quality of science
 - Independence & use of experts
 - Clear administrative process from beginning to end
 - Consultation at key milestones
 - WTO-consistent methodology