



Vale Dr David Banks

All staff in Biosecurity Australia, as well as those in other areas of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, have been affected by the tragic loss of Dr David Banks.

Warm, witty, wise, and often charmingly whacky, David touched the lives of us all. Few public servants have ever earned so much respect for their work while at the same time generating such feelings of affection among their colleagues.

The news that he was one of the 15 victims of the aircraft crash at Lockhart River, on Queensland's Cape York Peninsula on May 7 came as a profound shock.

Most of us knew him as the Principal Scientist of Biosecurity Australia—his official title—but he was also a fine gentleman and a great veterinary epidemiologist as well as managing to fit in time as an inventor, an air force reserve pilot, a cyclist and rower. His hobbies included electronics, bee keeping, worm farming, fishing and home brewing.

It was a very full life and David spread good humour in whatever he did and wherever he went.

He was best known in his career as a veterinary scientist for his work on the control and eradication of livestock diseases.

His career began in England in 1971 with a degree in animal science, followed four years later by a degree in veterinary medicine. Over the next 10 years he continued to collect academic qualifications, culminating in his PhD in veterinary epidemiology from James Cook University in 1985.



David Banks, typically, helping a local farmer to examine cattle in Laos.

After his first two degrees he managed a private veterinary practice in rural Kent for a year before the lure of the South Pacific took him to the highlands of Papua New Guinea.

There, as a regional and then Chief Veterinary Officer for the PNG Government's Department of Primary Industries, he worked to eradicate brucellosis, tuberculosis and buffalo fly from the highlands.

His role in PNG could hardly have provided him with better groundwork for his eventual role with Biosecurity Australia. He investigated disease outbreaks, ran an animal laboratory, monitored the animal disease status of neighbouring countries and formulated testing protocols for live animals and animal products.

He left the Pacific islands to complete his PhD but soon returned, as a senior research scientist, to coordinate projects involving livestock diseases in Fiji, the Solomons, Vanuatu, Western Samoa, Tonga, Indonesia and Timor.

Experience in the control and management of parasites and diseases in these islands led to consultancy offers from the CSIRO's Division of Animal Health and the Singapore Government.

David's interest in better monitoring methods and in electronics prompted him to invent a gas-powered mosquito trap as a check against incursions of Japanese encephalitis into northern Queensland from Papua New Guinea. The traps could replace the very time-consuming and costly method of collecting samples from feral pig herds as a way of testing for the Japanese encephalitis virus.

They are now being field-tested by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service's (AQIS) Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy and Queensland Tropical Health Unit scientists in Cape York Peninsula and the Torres Strait.

David spent 10 years with AQIS, taking a lead role in animal quarantine programs, reviews, research projects, the Supermarket to Asia program, and pre-and post-export testing.

He joined Biosecurity Australia in 2000 to head a branch of 30 scientific and veterinary specialists who undertake risk assessments on imports of animals and animal products.

All his friends and colleagues extend their deepest sympathy to David's wife Anne and his children, Rupert, Natalie and Melissa.

"Frater, ave atque vale" — hail brother, and farewell.



Tasmanian cherries set to blossom in Japan

It sounds a bit like selling ice to the Eskimos, but Tasmanian growers are set to export cherries to the land of cherry blossom.

Japanese quarantine authorities have approved market access for Japanese cherries grown in Tasmania.

No one else in the world has exported Japanese cherries to Japan before so it's a major achievement.

Japan's acceptance of Tasmanian cherries provides an opportunity to establish a new Australian export opportunity worth about \$10 million over the next four years and \$30 million by 2010.

"This is welcome news for Tasmania's growers who have been seeking access to the Japanese market since 2000", Australian Agriculture Minister Warren Truss said.

"Export market access is a key issue for Australia's \$50 million cherry industry which is expanding rapidly.

"I hope that market access to Japan for Tasmanian cherries will pave the way for similar market access for cherries from the other Australian States."

The process has been very detailed and began with Japanese officials carrying out rigorous pest risk analyses. But such was the effort by BA there were no adverse comments from Japanese stakeholders when the draft import regulations were aired at public hearings in Tokyo.

Tasmania can begin exporting with the upcoming harvest season running from early December through to February. Counterseasonal trade — when cherries don't grow in Japan — is excellent timing for Tasmania's cherry industry.

Tasmania is free from fruit flies of concern to Japan and the only pest that might possibly occur on Tasmanian cherries is Codling moth.

The Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries, in consultation with local growers, will continue to work through the details of the import conditions with Japanese quarantine authorities.

Japan currently imports about \$140 million worth of cherries each year, with 7,000 tonnes coming from the United States and 11 tonnes from New Zealand. However, these imported cherries are western varieties with dark flesh and dark skin, not the Japanese variety, which is white fleshed with a bright red skin and sweeter than the usual western varieties.

Tasmania currently produces about 1000 tonnes of Japanese cherries a year. Prompted by the good news from Japan, increased plantings by the industry will increase production to about 2,500 to 3,000 tonnes over the next three to four years.

Work proceeding on revised draft IRAs

Fisheries, Forestry and Conservation Minister Ian Macdonald has supported the work of Biosecurity Australia in the Senate.

A report by the Senate rural affairs committee made recommendations about previous draft import risk analyses for Philippine bananas and New Zealand apples (see separate box).

Senator Macdonald told the Senate that BA was preparing revised draft IRAs for these commodities.

"The issues raised by the Senate committee have really been substantially addressed by the Government already," Senator Macdonald told the Senate in March.

"The Government [has] overhauled the administration of Biosecurity Australia. We have established [it] as an independent agency separate from the trade policy area within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

"We have strengthened this further and boosted the independence of Biosecurity Australia; it is now a prescribed agency, financially and administratively independent from the rest of the department."

He said the Government had further strengthened the rigour of IRAs and

current IRAs had been reviewed, using latest scientific information.

The review has been completed and the work of preparing the revised draft IRAs is proceeding. The revised drafts will be circulated for stakeholder comment.

"A new branch is being established within Biosecurity Australia to focus on quality control and review of risk methods, systems and engagement with stakeholders," Senator Macdonald added.

"A centre for risk analysis [separate to BA] is being established with Government funding."

Meanwhile, after completing a review of current import risk analyses, Biosecurity Australia has been working on completing further revised draft reports for the import risk analyses for apples from New Zealand and bananas from the Philippines.

The revised draft reports are expected to be completed in some months. They will then be circulated to stakeholders for comment. Comments of a scientific or technical nature will be particularly welcome.

Biosecurity Australia warms to ice sculpture



If you're going to carve artistic designs into ice for a Swedish festival, frozen water from Down Under just won't do!

Festival organiser Schenker Australia arranged for 11 tonnes of the finest ice from the Torne River in Sweden's north to be shipped 44,000 kilometres in a massive sea container for the Swedish Style festival in Melbourne.

Despite the relative purity of the ice, Biosecurity Australia needed to ascertain if the ice posed any quarantine risk to our own unique environment.

BA veterinarian Iska Sampson said the source of the ice was a significant recreational fishing area for species including Atlantic salmon and sea trout. Since the early 1980s there has been extensive restocking of the Torne River with farmed salmonids.

Iska's research found there were several salmonid pathogens reported from Sweden that were exotic to Australia, and that were resistant to freezing. Further, there might have been other aquatic organisms of quarantine concern in the river's water.

So before master Swedish ice sculptor Daniel Rosenbaum could carve clever shapes, and even functional masterpieces like drinking glasses, for the delight of locals and visiting Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, Patron of

Swedish Style, Iska needed to know the ice and its melt water was safe.

Iska said she knew that the chance of any potential contamination was low because it had already passed the strict regulations of the Swedish food safety authority. However it was better to be safe than sorry due to the large volumes of water involved and the fact the ice was to be carved at Federation Square on the very banks of the River Yarra, into which any melt water would run directly if it was not controlled.

Iska advised Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service officers of her concerns and they agreed it was not essential to ensure every last drop of water was stopped from entering the stormwater system. But they also agreed it would be reasonable to implement some quarantine controls on the disposal of the ice and melt water.

They decided it should be disposed of via the municipal sewerage system. It could also be used to water a garden, lawn or park provided there was no run-off into waterways or stormwater drains.

The festival turned out to be a great success and patrons agreed Mr Rosenbaum's two tonne carvings were spectacular, especially the two metre tall sculpture used as a centrepiece during a gala dinner for Princess Victoria at the National Gallery of Victoria.

Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Table Grapes from Chile

The comment period for the Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Table Grapes from Chile has been completed.

The revised draft took into account new stakeholder comments, further scientific literature reviews, recent interception data relevant to the IRA and compliance with international standards. The IRA team's new draft report has given particular attention to the grapevine pathogen *Phomopsis viticola* type 2, which does not occur in Western Australia.

Biosecurity Australia sought advice from independent specialists, including experts from South Australia Research and Development Institute, to consider whether specific measures would be required for the grapevine pathogen should Chilean grapes be allowed into Australia.

The draft IRA report also identified other quarantine pests associated with table grapes from Chile. These are Mediterranean fruit fly, Chilean false red mite, weevils, mealybugs, leafrollers and spiders.

The draft IRA report recommended a combination of risk management measures, including:

- > pest free areas for Mediterranean fruit fly
- > methyl bromide fumigation (either pre-shipment or on-arrival) for the Chilean false red mite
- > pre-shipment fumigation with SO₂/CO₂ for spiders
- > inspection and remedial action for weevils, mealybugs and leafrollers and
- > supporting operational systems to maintain phytosanitary status.

These measures are similar to those required by Australia for imported New Zealand and Californian table grapes.

Biosecurity Australia's IRA review team noted that Chilean grapes imported by the USA are also subject to mandatory fumigation (methyl bromide) on entry to the USA.

The next stage of the IRA is to consider final stakeholder comments and technical information and to have the draft Final IRA Report reviewed by the Eminent Scientists Group to ensure that stakeholders' comments have been properly considered.

The IRA appeals process remains unchanged, with stakeholders still able to formally appeal final IRA reports.

Biosecurity Australia helps Samoa with risk assessments



An adventurous ex-Biosecurity Australia Plant Programs officer has spent the past 12 months in Samoa helping the islanders develop and conduct import risk analyses on high risk commodity imports.

Rachel Stuart, who worked for Biosecurity Australia between 2002 and 2004, volunteered to help the Samoan Quarantine Service in March 2004 under the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) program.

The program was set up in 1998 by the Minister for Foreign Affairs Alexander Downer to place skilled young Australians between the ages of 18 and 30 into developing countries throughout the Asia Pacific region.

The idea is for the young Aussies to conduct short-term assignments of between three and 12 months to help developing countries in the areas of health, environment, rural development, gender, governance, justice, education and infrastructure development.

Youth Ambassadors work closely, often one-on-one, with the local staff of their host organisation, with the aim of transferring knowledge and work skills so local staff can continue the work after the assignment is over.

As Samoa has a tropical climate, the islanders cannot grow temperate fruits and vegetables; which have to be imported from New Zealand and Australia. These imports have the potential to introduce exotic pests such as fruit flies from Australia—pests that would have a big impact in Samoa.

The country has already had the experience of an exotic disease lodging itself there. Islanders found the fungus Taro Leaf Blight (*Phytophthora colocasiae*) in 1993. The blight devastated taro production throughout the island. This was a major blow because taro is a staple in the Samoan diet. Even worse, fear of the blight prompted overseas markets to close their doors to Samoan taro exports.

Rachel said this example alone highlighted how important it was for the

Samoan Quarantine Service to conduct good IRAs.

However, as the Samoan Quarantine Service has limited access to scientific literature, only two staff members allocated to IRAs and limited internet access, it is not possible for IRAs to be as extensive as in Australia.

“So, in conjunction with my Samoan counterparts, we worked out a process to start and finish IRAs in minimal time by focussing on important aspects and treating each IRA individually,” Rachel said.

“In good order we successfully completed an IRA for copra (dried coconut flesh) from Kiribati.”

“Furthermore, I transferred the notion of being able to defend any decisions made in an IRA by encouraging a good filing system, both electronic and manual. I also handed on skills in market access, such as ranking in order of importance commodities for export, writing market access submissions that are compliant with the rules of the World

Trade Organisation (WTO) and liaising with other sections of the Ministry of Agriculture for information useful in a market access submission.”

The latter skills are especially important now that Samoa has a Hot Temperature Forced Air (HTFA) machine for treating fruit fly in fruits and vegetables prior to export. The HTFA machine potentially opens up more markets for the export of Samoan fresh fruit and vegetables.

With Samoa seeking to gain membership to the WTO in 2006, an important role for Rachel was to pass on her knowledge of the rules and obligations of the WTO that specifically relate to IRAs and market access submissions.

“Although further training will be needed once membership is achieved, my assignment has given my counterparts the basic skills required to follow and understand the rules of the WTO, such as learning about the content and relevance of the International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs).”

Sweet solution for Aussie lychee nursery stock in Brazil

Australia has gained market access to Brazil for lychee plants thanks to a little help from Biosecurity Australia.



The first shipment from the growers at Birdwood Nursery, Nambour, in Queensland has already been sent and both the growers and their Brazilian importers are happy with the result.

The story began more than 18 months ago when Birdwood Nursery's Peter and Sandra Young asked Biosecurity Australia for help in meeting the requirements of the Brazilian quarantine authorities. The Brazilians wanted a technical market access submission for the proposed lychee nursery stock exports and we provided this in September 2003.

The submission contained pest data for lychee plants in Australia so the Brazilians could do their own pest risk analysis (PRA).

The submission stressed that Australian plant nurseries that provide lychee propagation material have high standards of hygiene. It also noted that Birdwood Nursery uses air layering or marcotting as the main commercial method of propagating lychees.

The Brazilian authorities responded to our PRA in July 2004, accepting the proposed risk management measures, and finalised their import conditions for lychee nursery stock, asking in turn for our comments on it.

We prepared a comprehensive response that supported Brazil's proposed risk management measures.

“We could not have done any of this without Biosecurity Australia,” Sandra Young said.

Protecting our honeybees from exotic pests

Is our system for early detection of exotic honeybee pests doing an adequate job?

Biosecurity Australia has been working to ensure honeybee pests are detected early if they do arrive and the answer is 'yes' so far.

Honeybees in Australia have a rare advantage over those in most other countries — they don't have to put up with pests such as varroa mites, tropilaelaps mites and tracheal mites. Scary names perhaps but the impact could be even more worrying.

Varroa is the most significant pest of honeybees world wide; it has managed to invade most countries where honeybees exist.

The mite affects honey production by slowly killing off hives. Beekeepers in affected countries have to treat their hives constantly to achieve a level of control. But that is only the start.

Varroa in Australia could kill off feral honeybee hives in bushland — the bees from these hives provide a crucial free pollination service for all sorts of native and commercial plants.

So how do we keep the mites out? We know that honeybees occasionally hitchhike on ocean-going vessels. In order to minimise such events we advise ships' masters and agents to be on the alert for honeybees aboard their vessels. In addition to this awareness campaign, AQIS conducts inspections of containers and equipment targeting those that provide an attractive environment for bees. Yet we can't be certain that we have detected every hitchhiker bee.

The National Sentinel Hive Program provides an additional safeguard by detecting incursions early.

It operates at over 25 ports around Australia. The principle is simple: set up a hive close to the port and check it regularly to see if any intruders turn up. That way, we can expect to detect any pest which arrives via that port earlier rather than later.

The technique of hive checking is tailored to the particular pest of concern. Chemicals that kill external mites, but not bees, are placed in the top of the hive and sticky paper placed in the bottom. After a day or two, the paper is removed and examined under a microscope. If mites are present, the dead ones will be found on the sticky paper.

To detect internal parasites, such as tracheal mites, entomologists examine small samples of whole bees under a microscope.

There is yet another intruder, the Asian honeybee, which could both carry mites and cause damage as an exotic competitor. Asian honeybees live in countries close to Australia and would happily thrive in our northern regions. For example, just last November, a nest of Asian honeybees was found underneath a container which had been brought from PNG to Brisbane. So we check for them too.

Using a specific pheromone bait developed by the CSIRO we entice Asian honeybees to make their nests in a specially designed 'log trap'. We also check these traps regularly to see if any Asian honeybees have moved in.

This program has operated since 2000. While Biosecurity Australia takes a coordinating role, the willing cooperation of state departments of agriculture and of participating beekeepers is critical to the program's success.

Biosecurity Australia continues to review the surveillance program to ensure that it is effective in detecting pests of concern early and prevents them getting a foothold.



Policy review needed for live finfish imports

Biosecurity Australia has commenced a review of the import policy for ornamental fin fish.

Scientists have found an exotic virus infecting live imported finfish bound for domestic aquariums, prompting.

Experimental cohabitation trials at the University of Sydney led researchers to believe that an iridovirus found in gourami ornamentals could infect the Murray cod (*Maccullochella peelii peelii*).

Murray cod is an iconic native fish that can live more than 100 years and grow bigger than 100 kilograms that is considered endangered.

The virus not only causes sickness in host fish but can kill them.

Traditionally Australia has allowed the import of a number of species of live freshwater fish for use as ornamental fish.

Current quarantine measures require gouramis to be held in an export premises for a minimum 14 day period prior to export, health certification that they are sourced from populations with no known significant clinical disease in the last six months, and that the fish are held in post-arrival quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

Large numbers of gouramis have been imported into Australia over several decades. We import about 400,000 a year.

However, the financial significance of the fish is greater than indicated by the volume imported due to their high cost and importance to the more serious hobbyists.

Biosecurity Australia will contact stakeholders regarding further steps in the review process, including the circulation of a policy review document for stakeholder comment. In the interim, we invite stakeholders to submit any relevant technical or other information they believe may be appropriate to this review.





Photo: Courtesy of Annie Lloyd, Department of Primary Industries, Qld.

Japan Taiwan Korea accept Riverland

Citrus from Australia's Riverland can now be exported to Japan without mandatory cold disinfestation.

Taiwan and Korea have also formally agreed to accept that the Riverland is free of fruit fly.

This is welcome news for South Australian citrus growers who have been seeking access to the Japanese market without having to undertake the expensive cold storage treatment against fruit flies.

Australia has been seeking recognition of freedom from Mediterranean and

Queensland fruit flies for mainland Australia for some years.

Accepting the fruit fly free status of the Riverland will allow local producers to export fresh citrus to Korea without needing to subject their fruit to a cold disinfestation treatment against fruit flies. Currently the only Australian citrus exports to Korea, oranges and lemons, have to be subjected to cold disinfestation treatment.

Australia sought similar recognition from Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) in October 2000.

The Director of MAFF Japan and the ministry's chief entomologist visited pest free areas of the Riverland and Sunraysia to examine the situation .

Japanese authorities have now accepted the Riverland as being fruit fly free, thus no longer requiring a post harvest pest treatment as part of its import conditions for fresh citrus from Riverland.

The Japanese said they will consider other fruit fly host commodities and Sunraysia at a later date.

Biosecurity Australia sought similar recognition from Taiwan's plant quarantine authorities (BAPHIQ) of the fruit fly free status of the Riverland, Riverina and Sunraysia districts.

Two BAPHIQ experts visited the areas in November 2004 to inspect the quarantine systems.

The Taiwanese accepted the Riverland as being fruit fly free effective from 17 March 2005. An official notice of this acceptance is expected soon.

The Australian industry assisted teams from the trading partners to inspect fruit fly monitoring procedures in Australia's citrus growing areas.

Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Tahitian Limes from New Caledonia

The comment period for the Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for Tahitian Limes from New Caledonia is complete.

The review of New Caledonia's limes took account of stakeholder comments, further scientific literature reviews, recent interception data relevant to the IRA and compliance with international standards.

The measures proposed in the revised Draft IRA Report are similar to those in the earlier draft report, which considered the main pests of quarantine concern to be fruit flies, citrus scab and mealybugs.

However, after the import risk analysis team reviewed stakeholder comments

and other significant data, it decided to include the little fire ant as a quarantine pest in this draft.

Australia currently allows imports of Tahitian limes from Egypt, New Zealand, Spain and the American states of Arizona, California and Texas.

Australia's Tahitian limes industry in the Northern Territory and Queensland exports to Brunei, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Kuwait, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA.

The Draft IRA recommended a combination of risk management measures for Tahitian limes from New Caledonia, including:

- > orchard registration and control programs for fruit flies and citrus scab
- > certification of mature green fruit — a specific phytosanitary requirement for fruit flies
- > pre-export and on-arrival inspection

The next stage is for Biosecurity Australia's risk analysis team to consider further comments from stakeholders and any new technical input. The draft Final IRA Report will then be reviewed by the Eminent Scientists Group to ensure stakeholder comments have been properly taken into account.

The IRA appeals process remains unchanged, with stakeholders still able to formally appeal final IRA reports.



Seeing the wood and the trees in Canada

Foresters and quarantine specialists from around the world met in Canada recently to discuss issues such as heat treatment and fumigation of timber for export.

Cheryl Grgurinovic represented Biosecurity Australia at the International Forestry Quarantine Research Group, which met in Victoria, British Columbia.

The group was established to address forestry quarantine issues of global significance through discussion and collaborative research and has the principal functions of:

- > acting as an advisory body to the International Plant Protection Convention
- > providing a forum for the discussion and clarification of key issues related to the phytosanitary implications of global trade
- > identifying and undertaking collaborative scientific research aimed at high priority forestry quarantine questions.

The meeting's primary concern was to discuss *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures 15 (ISPM 15)*, and *Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade*.

Delegates discussed possible changes to the international protocol governing methyl bromide fumigation but could not agree on how much of the gas ought to be used. The delegates agreed to review the matter further before their next meeting.

They also discussed heat treatment procedures, the current approved measures in ISPM 15, and proposed new protocols—as well as the possibility of sharing information—on interceptions on wood packaging material.

Of particular interest was the issue of reinfestation by timber pests and hitchhikers of wood packaging material after it has been treated. While there have been a number of experiments demonstrating reinfestation, the delegates agreed more are needed to determine the best approach to the problem.

Cheryl and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service's Doug Walsh and Nin Hyne, presented a discussion paper on Australia's bark freedom requirements and the implementation of ISPM 15.

Cheryl said Australia had always had a bark freedom requirement for imported timber.

"The trouble with timber with bark attached is that it provides hiding places for pests, impedes the thorough penetration of methyl bromide into the wood and makes inspection more difficult. Biosecurity Australia is preparing a technical paper on its bark freedom protocol.

After the meeting, Cheryl, Doug and Nin visited logging and milling operations on Vancouver Island and nearby on the mainland.

"Seeing forestry operations first hand was important for my work on Biosecurity Australia's import risk analysis on sawn coniferous timber from Canada, New Zealand and the United States," Cheryl said.

On Vancouver Island, the group visited Hayes Forest Services, Duncan, about 60 km from Victoria. They were then flown by helicopter to see western red cedar, hemlock and Douglas-fir logging sites in the region where companies use cable

logging and 'heli logging' operations as well as 'hoe chucking' (moving logs with an excavator with a grapple instead of a bucket mounted to the boom). They were impressed with heli logging carried out by huge Sikorsky helicopters—an expensive procedure that has become viable due to the great value of the cedar logs.

Finally they toured the Hammond Cedar Sawmill, the largest cedar sawmill in the world. Hammond operates two processing facilities, a high-speed planer mill that deals with traditional cedar products, such as decking and fascia, and a siding plant which processes very high value products.

Animal Bio Briefs

» Pork federal court appeal

The Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine has lodged an appeal against a Federal Court judgment on pork imports.

The court upheld a complaint by Australian Pork Ltd, which filed a suit in June 2004 against a new quarantine policy for imported pork.

The Director of Quarantine said that, considering the commercial ramifications of the judgment and its affect on the status of quarantine generally, she had asked the court to hear the appeal as soon as possible.

The department's lawyers said they may seek a stay of court orders flowing from the judgment pending the determination of the appeal.

Every effort is made to ensure that Australia's favourable pest and disease status is protected.

PLANT BIOSECURITY IMPORT AND EXPORT UPDATE

IMPORT		
Commodity	Country	Status
Apples	New Zealand	IRA team has met regularly, considering submissions, preparing further revised Draft IRA Report.
Bananas	Philippines	IRA team has met regularly, considering submissions, preparing further revised Draft IRA Report.
Citrus	Florida	Waiting on technical information from US.
Mangoes	India	Final import policy being prepared.
Sweet oranges	Italy	Preparing final report on extension of import policy.
Tahitian Limes	New Caledonia	Preparing final IRA.
Table Grapes	Chile	Draft Final IRA Report being considered by Eminent Scientists Group.
Asian Pears	China	Stakeholder comments are being considered.
EXPORT		
Commodity	Country	Status
Cherries	Japan	Import protocol finalised. Exports commencing 2005.
Fruit fly area freedom	Japan	Import protocol for citrus from Riverland finalised. Exports commencing 2005.
Fruit fly area freedom	Korea	Riverland accepted as pest free area.
Fruit fly area freedom	Taiwan	Riverland accepted as pest free area.
Citrus	China	Considering China's draft import protocol.
Seed Potatoes	Thailand	Finalised export conditions.

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY IMPORT AND EXPORT UPDATE

IMPORT		
Commodity	Country	Status
Uncooked chicken meat	generic	IRA team met 11, 22 February 2005 to progress the draft IRA report.
Egg and egg products	generic	IRA team met on 25 February 2005 to work on draft IRA report.
Psittacine birds	generic	IRA team met on 20 April 2005, working on draft IRA report and working closely with the other avian IRA teams.
Pig semen	generic	IRA team met on 15–16 March 2005, working on revised draft IRA report.
Bivalve molluscs	generic	IRA team met late June 2005.
EXPORT		
Commodity	Country	Status
Carp and salmonids	EU	Seeking clarification from European Commission on zoning and certification requirements of their new directive.
Honeybees	United States	Confirmed biosecurity requirements with US, completing longstanding access request. Trade has commenced.
Sheep and goats	The Philippines	The Philippines has amended conditions to not include testing for bluetongue.
Honey	New Zealand	Provided comments to NZ on their import risk assessment of honey bee hive products.
Breeder cattle	New Caledonia	New Caledonia has agreed to revised health conditions.
Cats, dogs, pigs and equines	Taiwan	Provided technical information to Taiwan on Hendra virus to support the lifting of import bans on these animals.

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