



Australian Government

Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service

Quarantine and Market Access 2003 Conference

“Maximising Trade – Minimising Risk”

“Maintaining Australia’s Border Security”

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Ensuring the Security of our Borders

- **Australia is no different to other countries in wanting to protect the sovereign integrity of its borders**
- **We must have robust arrangements in place**



How does AQIS maintain our border security ?

AQIS works on two levels:

- **By ensuring what comes in across our borders is “secure”, and**
- **By ensuring what leaves our borders for export is “secure”**



AQIS - its values and ethos

- **The 2003 QMAC conference theme of “Maximising Trade – Minimising Risk” is highly relevant to AQIS business**
- **AQIS is a regulator with a clear legislative mandate to protect Australia and Australians**
- **How well quarantine and export services are delivered is absolutely critical to Australia’s way of life now and in the future**
- **To achieve this we rely on the heartbeat of AQIS – its people**



AQIS - its values and ethos

- **AQIS is subject to a range of contradictory demands and pressures, including to:**
 - **be less intrusive, but more effective and efficient**
 - **focus our efforts, but be consistent**
 - **deal with the important issues, but not stray beyond the bounds of our authority; and**
 - **be more responsive to the regulated community, but not be ‘captured’**



Quarantine Integrity

- **Shared responsibility - governments, industry and the general public**
- **AQIS forges close and open relationships with industry**
- **Facilitated by Industry Consultative Committees**
- **AQIS staff and industry leaders work co-operatively to build a reservoir of trust**



Quarantine and Trade

- **International trade - potential to inadvertently introduce pests and diseases**
- **Australia's farm exports are over \$31 billion, with one in four jobs in regional Australia depending on farm exports**
- **Maintaining Australia's status as a "clean and green" exporter is vital**



The Increased Quarantine Initiative

- **2001 Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak in UK/Europe**
- **Australian Government provided \$596m over 4 years to increase the quarantine capacity of AQIS and the Australian Customs Service**
- **AQIS to deliver increased quarantine intervention levels:**
 - **at least 81% at airports, and 100% at seaports, international mail centres, cargo clearance**
- **To lead to increased effectiveness levels**



AQIS's Strategic Response

Scorecard shows intervention levels achieved. This has involved:

- **Over 1200 new staff recruited and trained**
- **New x-ray machines at international mail centres and airports**
- **Over 75 detector dog teams operating at airports and mail exchanges**
- **At seaports, 100% screening of vessels and cargo containers**



“Zero Risk” and “Quarantine”

- **100% intervention does not equate to zero risk**
- **Zero risk is not an option**
- **AQIS is at the “cutting edge” in assessing acceptable quarantine risk**
- **The “Continuum of Quarantine” – pre-border, border, post-border**



AQIS's Export Services

- **Ensuring animal and plant products leaving Australia meet importing countries' requirements**
- **AQIS provides export inspection, auditing and certification services for meat, horticulture, grain, fish, dairy, live animal and organics exports**
- **A direct bearing on Australia's wealth and the standard of living enjoyed by all Australians**



AQIS's Heartbeat – its people

- **AQIS – 3000 dedicated people in hundreds of locations**
- **AQIS operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year at airports, seaports, and international mail centres**
- **AQIS staff see their work as critical to Australia's national interest and Australia's border security**



Conclusion

AQIS plays a pivotal role in maintaining Australia's border security. It does this in two ways:

- **First, by protecting Australia's favourable animal, plant and health status**
- **Second, by maximising trade opportunities for Australia by certifying animal and plant exports**
- **Together, AQIS operations "Maximise Trade, Minimise Risk"**