



28 June 2000

PLANT QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/10

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES

This Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum (PQPM) provides stakeholders with information regarding the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of bananas from the Philippines.

In our Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum (PQPM) number 2000/01 of 13 March 2000, we advised you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) had received an import request for bananas from the Philippines. Stakeholders were invited to comment on the priority to be accorded to this and other requests listed in the PQPM and provide any additional information.

The purpose of this letter is to notify stakeholders that an IRA process has been initiated for this request as a matter of priority and to invite you to comment on the proposed approach to the risk analysis.

AQIS considers that the risk analysis on the importation of bananas from the Philippines should be undertaken using the non-routine IRA process outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*. This is based on consideration that this proposal will require consideration of potentially significant quarantine risks that have not previously been studied by AQIS, and that the analysis is likely to be large and technically complex.

We estimate that the risk analysis process will take approximately 18 -24 months from commencement to completion using the non-routine process. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect the draft IRA paper will be released in early 2001, using the non-routine IRA process.

You are invited to comment on the proposal to conduct the IRA using the non-routine process. Your comments will be taken into consideration by AQIS in finalising its position on the type of process to be followed. AQIS will accept written submissions on this issue until the close of business on Monday 31 July 2000. Responses should be forwarded to:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantquar@aqis.gov.au

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to the review will be publicly available and be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared in the review. If a request for anonymity does not accompany a submission, the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purposes of the *Privacy Act*. The contents of a 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*. The AQIS IRA process, as documented in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, does not provide for extensions to the formal consultation stages.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the above address.

Information on all IRAs being conducted by the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is available on the AQIS Homepage at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Brian Stynes
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Plant Quarantine Policy Branch

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