



**Market
Access
and
Biosecurity**

11 September 2000

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/43

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: UNCOOKED CHICKEN MEAT

PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides a progress report on the import risk analysis (IRA) of uncooked chicken meat. It reports on the first meeting of the risk analysis panel (RAP) and provides details on the RAPs' work program.

In December 1998, stakeholders were advised of the commencement of a generic import risk analysis for the importation of uncooked chicken meat via Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) 1998/97. Further notifications consulted stakeholders on process issues and the proposed membership of the RAP (AQPM 1999/68), advised confirmation of the RAP (AQPM 2000/23) and the outcome of an appeal against the scope and panel membership (AQPM 2000/34).

The first meeting of the RAP was held in Canberra on 1 August 2000. The panel was chaired by Dr David Banks (Animal Biosecurity Policy) and included Professor Peter Coloe (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University), Dr Paul Gilchrist (consultant), Dr Andrew Turner (consultant and former Victorian Chief Veterinary Officer) and Dr Harvey Westbury (Australian Animal Health Laboratory – AAHL).

The RAP considered a number of issues including the scope of the IRA, hazard identification (pathogens of quarantine concern for which a risk assessment should be conducted) as well as technical working groups and research to support the work of the panel.

Work has commenced on the issues paper which the RAP hopes to release in November 2000. The paper will be circulated to stakeholders for comment for 60 days.

The panel is considering the possibility of external support in the form of technical working groups, consultancies or research projects to assist with the more complex diseases such as Newcastle disease virus, infectious bursal disease virus,

campylobacteriosis, *Salmonella* Enteritidis, other salmonellae and Enterohaemorrhagic *E. coli* (EHECs). The panel plans to meet again on 12 October 2000 to discuss the external support program and the issues paper.

The panel considered at this stage it was difficult to establish a firm timetable beyond the release of the issues paper because of the uncertainty surrounding the external program and the time required to complete it. We will report on the timetable when details of the external support program, and especially any research requirements, have been decided at the next panel meeting in October.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1982, all submissions received in response to Animal Quarantine Policy memoranda will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in any papers or reports prepared on the subject matter of the Memoranda.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reveal the identity of the respondent unless a request for anonymity accompanies the submission. Where a request for anonymity does not accompany the submission the respondent will be taken to have consented to the disclosure of his or her identity for the purpose of Information Privacy Principle 11 of the Privacy Act.

The contents of the 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.

David Banks
A/g General Manager
Animal Biosecurity Policy

Contact officer: Warren Vant
Telephone no: 02 6272 4436
Facsimile no: 02 6272 3399
E-mail warren.vant@aqis.gov.au