



file no: 99/2938

28 June 2000

ANIMAL QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/31

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: CROCODILE MEAT FROM ZIMBABWE

DECISION ON NEW CONDITIONS

This Animal Quarantine Policy Memorandum (AQPM) provides the final report of the import risk analysis (IRA) and quarantine requirements for the importation of crocodile meat from Zimbabwe. The appeal period closes on 27 July 2000.

Under the import risk analysis (IRA) procedures the Executive Director of AQIS has considered the final report of the IRA and has agreed to adopt the policy and conditions for the importation of crocodile meat from Zimbabwe as set out in Attachment A.

AQPM 2000/07, which presented the draft report of the IRA and proposed quarantine conditions for importation, was circulated for public comment on 31 January 2000. AQIS received comment from eight stakeholders, all of whom supported the proposed policies. A summary of comments received and AQIS's response is at Attachment B.

The final import conditions presented with this AQPM do not differ greatly from those proposed in the draft report. There are minor modifications to clarify some conditions and remove unnecessary details such as the date of slaughter and date of packaging. The estimation of consequences (in section 5.1.2) in the report was modified to include an additional category of "very low" for consequence of entry and establishment and corresponding sections in the text, including the risk estimation matrix (Table 5), were amended as appropriate. These changes take into account developments in IRA methodology since preparation of the draft report - they do not affect the conclusions of the assessment or the required risk management measures. There are minor changes to the text to clarify some points but no changes to the conclusions of the risk assessments. More current detail about the Zimbabwe industry is included in Section 2.2.

The new policies will allow importation subject to specific risk management to prevent the entry and establishment of *Trichinella* and exotic species of *Salmonella*.

Next Steps

This AQPM advises the final conditions endorsed by the Executive Director of AQIS.

This IRA was conducted in accordance with the *routine* IRA process described in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which provides an opportunity for appeal to the Director of Quarantine. A stakeholder who considers that the Handbook process was not properly followed may appeal regarding deficiencies in the consultative process or a failure by AQIS to consider a significant body of relevant scientific or technical information. Stakeholders may not appeal regarding the adequacy of the scientific evidence used by AQIS, the reasonableness of AQIS's scientific judgment, or AQIS's interpretation and application of the Government's policy on Australia's appropriate level of protection (ALOP).

Information on appeals is made public. Appeals should be sent to:

Mr Michael Taylor
Secretary
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry - Australia
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Appeals should be received by close of business on 27 July 2000. If there are no appeals, the attached conditions will be adopted on 2 August 2000. AQIS will issue a further AQPM advising adoption or, alternatively, that an appeal has been received. All inquires should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

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 a 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 purposes 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.

SARAH KAHN
Assistant Director
Animal Quarantine Policy Branch

Contact Officer: Warren Vant

Telephone no: (02) 6272 4436
Facsimile no: (02) 6272 3399
E-mail: warren.vant@aqis.gov.au