

T98/1820

Dear Stakeholder

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON SNOW PEAS

In our letter of 6 August 1998, we advised you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) will conduct an import risk analysis (IRA) for snow peas as fresh vegetables from Africa, with specific reference to Zimbabwe.

AQIS will conduct the risk analysis using the IRA process outlined in the recently published *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which is currently being distributed to stakeholders. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the proposed approach to the risk analysis.

The process

AQIS considers that the risk analysis on the importation of snow peas as fresh vegetables from Africa, with specific reference to Zimbabwe, should be undertaken using the routine IRA process outlined in the *IRA Handbook*.

Timeframe for completing the risk analysis

We estimate that the risk analysis will take approximately twelve months to complete using the routine process. If there are no unanticipated delays, we would expect the draft IRA paper to be released in February 1999. Stakeholders will be kept informed if there are any significant delays or variations to the proposed timeframe.

Request for comments

You are invited to comment on the proposal to conduct the IRA using the 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 28 October 1998. Responses should be forwarded to:

Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

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*.

We look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Digby Gascoine
Director
Policy and International Division

28 September 1998