



Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



T92/2580

5 June 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDIUM 2002/27

DRAFT REVISED CONDITIONS FOR CROCODILE MEAT FROM PAPUA NEW GUINEA

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) seeks stakeholder comment on revised conditions for the importation of crocodile meat from Papua New Guinea (PNG) at Attachment A. Comments would be appreciated by 6 August 2002.

The policy for the importation of crocodile meat from PNG was established in 1990. In August 2000, conditions for the importation of crocodile meat from Zimbabwe were promulgated (AQPM 2000/34) following an import risk analysis. At the time, an undertaking was given to review the policy for crocodile meat from PNG.

Animal Biosecurity has conducted the review and the proposed quarantine requirements are at Attachment A. The conditions remain largely unchanged and reflect the requirements of the Australian Standard for Hygienic Production of Crocodile Meat for Human Consumption, that are already being met in the production and processing of crocodile meat in PNG.

Crocodile meat exported from PNG and crocodile meat produced in Australia are both sourced from the saltwater crocodile, *Crocodylus porosus*, and our respective wild populations exist in close geographic proximity. This was taken into consideration when identifying disease agents that require risk management measures.

Trichinella papuae is the only disease agent identified as requiring risk management measures. This parasite has only been reported in the wild pig population in PNG. Farmed crocodiles have been infected in other countries where *Trichinella* sp. is present in wild animals. Therefore, an additional certification requirement for monitoring and testing for *Trichinella* spp. in crocodile meat is proposed until further information is available on the parasite and the host species in PNG. The current freezing requirements effectively destroy *Trichinella* spp. larvae in the unlikely event that they are present.

The proposed conditions have been developed in consultation with the PNG Government and are based on the import risk analysis of crocodile meat from Zimbabwe. In addition to the requirements for trichinellosis, other changes include the deletion of the requirement to declare freedom from mammalian diseases and a reduction of the quarantine storage period from 30 to 20 days.



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Next steps

You are invited to comment on the proposed conditions. Your response by close of business on 4 August 2002 would be appreciated. Biosecurity Australia will take your comments into consideration when finalising the revised conditions.

I would be grateful if you would pass details of this advice to other interested parties, who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on this matter.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity 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*.

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