



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

12 July 2007

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA POLICY MEMORANDUM 2007/15

REVISED DRAFT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS REPORT FOR BANANAS FROM THE PHILIPPINES - STATUS REPORT

This Biosecurity Australia Policy Memorandum (BAPM) informs stakeholders about the closing of the comment period for the February 2007 *Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines* and outlines the next steps in the import risk analysis (IRA).

Biosecurity Australia issued a *Revised Draft Import Risk Analysis Report for the importation of Cavendish bananas from the Philippines* to stakeholders on 1 March 2007 for comment by 30 May 2007 (BAPM 2007/06). The comment period was extended by a further 30 days, until 29 June 2007, to ensure that stakeholders had every opportunity to engage appropriate expertise and had sufficient time to comment on the substantial material contained in the report (BAPM 2007/12).

Biosecurity Australia received 19 submissions from stakeholders. Unless confidential, submissions will be included on the IRA public file and posted on the Biosecurity Australia website, www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

Biosecurity Australia, with the assistance of an expert IRA team, will now begin preparing a final import risk analysis report, giving careful consideration to the scientific and technical issues raised, and any new science that may have become available.

This final report will then be reviewed by an independent Eminent Scientists Group to ensure that Biosecurity Australia has taken stakeholders' comments properly into account.

The final report, which is open to formal appeal, will then be published.

Following any appeal process (and implementation of appeal outcomes, if required) a final report and recommendations will be provided to the Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine, who will then make a quarantine policy determination.

Biosecurity Australia intends to complete the import risk analysis in a timely fashion, giving full consideration to the issues raised in all submissions. The process of considering stakeholder submissions, eminent scientist review, formal appeal period and final policy determination is likely to be concluded by mid - 2008.

Consultation

Please pass this notice to other interested parties. If those parties wish to be included in future communications on this matter they should get in touch with the contact officer (details below).

Information on risk assessments and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available from our website www.biosecurityaustralia.gov.au.

The contact officer is:

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Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received in response to policy memorandums will be publicly available. Comments 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 their 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.

JOHN CAHILL
Chief Executive