



Australian Government
Biosecurity Australia

5 August 2009

BIOSECURITY AUSTRALIA ADVICE 2009/18
PRAWNS AND PRAWN PRODUCTS IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS UPDATE

This Biosecurity Australia Advice (BAA) informs stakeholders of the status of the prawns and prawn products import risk analysis (IRA). The Eminent Scientists Group (ESG) has concluded its review of the draft final report, which took account of stakeholders' comments. A copy of the ESG report is available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's website. Biosecurity Australia is now finalising the IRA report and expects to issue it by the end of September 2009. The final report will be open to appeal.

On 22 April 2009, Biosecurity Australia formally referred the draft final IRA report for prawns and prawn products to the ESG. The role of the ESG is to ensure that Biosecurity Australia has taken stakeholder comments properly into account in finalising the IRA and quarantine policy recommendations. The ESG has submitted its findings to Australia's Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine and to Biosecurity Australia. The ESG report is available at: www.daff.gov.au/biosecuritycoordination/eminent_scientists_group.

Biosecurity Australia is finalising the IRA report and recommendations, taking account of the ESG report. The final IRA report, which is open to formal appeal, is expected to be issued by the end of September 2009. Stakeholders will have 30 days from the publication of the final IRA report to lodge an appeal in writing to the Import Risk Analysis Appeals Panel (IRAAP) – a body independent of Biosecurity Australia – on the basis of:

- a significant deviation from the process set out in the *Import Risk Analysis Handbook* (2003) that adversely affected the interests of a stakeholder; and/or
- a significant body of scientific information relevant to the outcome of the IRA was not considered.

In lodging appeals, stakeholders are required to submit reasons for their appeal.

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

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 IRAs and policy reviews being conducted by Biosecurity Australia is available on the Biosecurity Australia website. Biosecurity Australia welcomes any comments on matters relevant to the issues raised in this advice.

Dr Colin J Grant
Chief Executive

Contact officer: Dr Ramesh Perera
Telephone: 02 6272 4675 Facsimile: 02 6272 3399
E-mail: Ramesh.Perera@biosecurity.gov.au