



12 August 2003

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/19

PIG MEAT IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

DRAFT REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) advises stakeholders of the release of the *Draft Import Risk Analysis (IRA) Report* on pig meat. Attached is an Executive Summary and proposed conditions. We would appreciate comments by 13 October 2003.

Biosecurity Australia has released the *Draft IRA Report* on pig meat. This follows the release of the *Technical Issues Paper* in January 2001 (ABPM 2001/02) and the *Draft Methods Paper* in October 2002 (ABPM 2003/45). This draft report describes the procedures followed to identify and assess the quarantine risks associated with imports to Australia of pig meat. It presents recommendations on proposed quarantine measures to address those risks.

The *Draft IRA Report* includes individual risk assessments of 26 disease agents that were identified as disease agents of quarantine concern. The risk analysis panel considered that 10 disease agents require risk management to meet Australia's appropriate level of quarantine protection.

As a result, the draft report recommends that import of pig meat be permitted subject to certain conditions depending on the health status of the exporting country or zone. Risk management measures include such things as country, zone or herd freedom, testing of the carcass, cooking, freezing, curing, canning and removal of certain tissues or parts of the carcass (removal of the head, neck, bones and lymph nodes). As many countries seeking access have both the diseases porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) and post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS), only cooked or cured, deboned pig meat would be permitted, subject to those countries meeting all other requirements. Biosecurity Australia will consider any other measures suggested by stakeholders that provide an equivalent level of protection.

The IRA also recommends tightening of the current PRRS requirements for cooking on-shore for product from Canada and Denmark. While on-shore processing will still be permitted, transport of frozen imported pig meat outside metropolitan areas of the Australian port of entry will require special security arrangements to prevent spillage.

Attached are the Executive Summary and the proposed conditions. The full report (approx. 800 pages) is available on the Department's web site at www.affa.gov.au/BiosecurityAustralia - follow the links to *Biosecurity Australia - Animal Biosecurity, Current Animal IRAs, Pig Meat* (the document is in pdf format and is approximately 2.5MB in size). A hard copy of the document can be obtained from the contact officer nominated below.

Next Steps

We would welcome your technical comments on the *Draft IRA Report*, supported by published references where available, by cob 13 October 2003. A public meeting will be held on a date and venue to be advised. The risk analysis panel will consider stakeholder comments as it finalises the IRA.

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.

Confidentiality

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