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Dear Stakeholder

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS - APPLES FROM NEW ZEALAND

I am writing to formally notify you that the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) is initiating an import risk analysis (IRA) on the importation of apples from New Zealand.

In our letter of 10 December 1998, AQIS advised stakeholders that following completion of an import risk analysis on an earlier import access proposal to export apples from New Zealand to Australia, importation under the conditions proposed at that time would not be permitted. A copy of the final IRA was distributed with that letter.

The New Zealand Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has submitted a revised import access proposal for the importation of New Zealand apples. The submission requests the review of available risk management options with a view to establishing phytosanitary measures that are the least trade restrictive in respect of New Zealand apple exports while ensuring the level of protection deemed appropriate by Australia is met.

AQIS will consider the proposal using the IRA process outlined in the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*. Stakeholders may now, if they wish, offer information and comment on the priority which they consider should be accorded by AQIS to the proposal. Comments should be forwarded to the IRA Secretariat at the following address by the close of business Friday 19 March 1999:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307
Email: plantquar@aqis.gov.au

Subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the *Privacy Act 1988*, all submissions received with respect to an import proposal will be publicly available and may be listed or referred to in papers or reports prepared on the proposal. 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*.

AQIS will establish a public file, containing the non-confidential stakeholder comments and technical documentation, at the commencement of each IRA. These files will be held at AQIS headquarters in Canberra and will be available to stakeholders during business hours for perusal and copying. Please contact the IRA Secretariat at the above address to make an appointment to gain access to the IRA public files.

If you wish to suggest inclusion of an additional stakeholder in our distribution list for this IRA, or if you wish to be removed from the distribution list, please provide details to the IRA Secretariat at the above address. Information on all IRAs the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is currently conducting is available on the AQIS Homepage at www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm

AQIS will be writing to you again in the near future to explain the proposed risk analysis process and to seek your views. I ask that peak industry groups who receive this letter keep their affiliates informed of this process.

I look forward to your participation in the IRA process.

Yours sincerely

Brian Stynes
Assistant Director
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch

25 February 1999