



9 May 2000

PLANT QUARANTINE POLICY MEMORANDUM 2000/06

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS – ORNAMENTAL BULBS FROM THE NETHERLANDS, UNITED KINGDOM, NEW ZEALAND AND ISRAEL

This Plant Quarantine Policy Memorandum (PQPM) provides stakeholders with information regarding the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) on the importation of ornamental bulbs from the Netherlands, United Kingdom, New Zealand and Israel.

In our letter of 30 March 1999, stakeholders were invited to comment on the Issues Paper for the import risk analysis (IRA) for the importation of ornamental bulbs from the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Israel. At that time stakeholders were also provided with a copy of a previously compiled consultants report on the importation of bulbs for information and comment.

Following the consultation period the Risk Analysis Panel (RAP) made no changes to the Issues Paper and the draft IRA paper is currently being progressed.

Stakeholders are advised that the Chair of the RAP, Dr Bob Ikin, has retired from the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service and will no longer participate as a member of the RAP. In line with the *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, if in the course of RAP proceedings a member ceases to be available, the Executive Director may decide, in consultation with stakeholders, to make such changes as are appropriate to ensure that the work of the RAP can be satisfactorily completed.

The Handbook also states that the Chair of the panel will be a member of the relevant policy area of AQIS with experience in quarantine risk analysis, an awareness of Australia's international rights and obligations under the SPS Agreement and an appreciation of Australia's appropriate level of protection. The Executive Director has therefore determined that Dr Adrian Harris, Manager, Nursery Stock/PEQ/Timber Team, Plant Quarantine Policy Branch, AQIS will replace Dr Ikin as the Chair of the RAP. A copy of Dr Harris' curriculum vitae was distributed to stakeholders on 17 November 1998 as a proposed member of the RAP, and further copies are available on request.

The release of the draft IRA has been delayed due to the significant amount of technical information being considered by the technical working group (TWG), the need to replace the chairperson of the RAP and three members of the TWG and lengthy delays in obtaining additional technical information from overseas.

The RAP is expected to meet with the TWG shortly to consider the preliminary draft IRA document and will then set new timeframes for completion and release of the draft IRA. Any future variations to the time frame will be posted on the AQIS web page, located at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>

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 Import Risk Analysis Secretariat at the following address:

Import Risk Analysis Secretariat
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Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
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Information on all IRAs being conducted by the Plant Quarantine Policy Branch is available on the AQIS Homepage at <http://www.aqis.gov.au/docs/plpolicy/plhome1.htm>

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