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Department of
**AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA**



ABN 24 113 085 695

File No. (00/3169)

18 March 2003

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2003/07

LIVE SNAKES IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS

RELEASE OF TECHNICAL ISSUES PAPER

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with the Technical Issues Paper of the live snakes Import Risk Analysis (IRA), for consideration and comment. Comments are due by 19 May 2003.

Biosecurity Australia is conducting an IRA of live snakes. It is part of a broader review of quarantine policies for reptiles. Work commenced in December 2001. The attached paper is the first technical consultation in the process.

As a result of a current review of the IRA process that Biosecurity Australia expects to finalise shortly, there has been general acceptance of several proposed changes, including the release of a Technical Issues Paper for all IRAs. On this basis, we have prepared such a paper for this IRA. (A draft framework document of the IRA process was circulated in September 2001 (ABPM 2001/26)).

Currently Australia permits the importation of snakes under 1997 interim quarantine requirements for reptiles. The interim conditions were amended in December 2002 to update details for Environment Australia and references to registered zoos, and to bring them into line with the Office Internationale des Epizooties (OIE) recommendations. The amended interim conditions will apply until completion of the IRA.

The attached paper is intended to promote discussion and comment on the main pest and disease risk issues. It identifies 53 disease agents (micro organisms and parasites). The Technical Issues Paper does not discuss risk management issues, as this will be addressed in a later consultation step, the draft IRA paper. The draft IRA will include risk assessments and, for those diseases that present an unacceptable risk, proposed risk management measures.

Next Steps

I would appreciate receiving your comments, supported by scientific references, if available, by 19 May 2003. Animal Biosecurity will consider all technical comments received and these will be taken into account in preparing the draft IRA report.

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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