



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



15 May 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/22

IMPORT RISK ANALYSES: EGGS AND EGG PRODUCTS AND UNCOOKED CHICKEN MEAT

PROGRESS REPORTS

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with progress reports on, and the next steps in, the two Import Risk Analyses (IRAs): egg and egg products and uncooked chicken meat.

The technical issues paper for the egg and egg products IRA was released for public comment in January 2001 (ABPM 2001/01). Ten stakeholders commented on the paper.

The technical issues paper for the uncooked chicken meat IRA was released for public comment in September 2001 (ABPM 2001/16). Nine stakeholders commented on the paper.

Stakeholder comments on the technical issues papers are on the Public Files held in Biosecurity Australia's office in Canberra. Please contact the officer below if you wish to view them.

Since the release of the technical issues papers, the respective panels have met formally on a number of occasions to consider the stakeholder comments and to develop the draft IRA reports, the next consultation step. More recently, the panels have met in joint session as they work through elements of the draft IRA reports. This will ensure a consistent approach to the methodology and to consideration of the pest and disease risks and their management. The meetings also provided the opportunity for each panel to draw on the experience and expertise of the other. The panels remain separate entities and there is no intention to combine them – each remains solely responsible for the conduct of its respective IRA.

Recent panel meetings have been held on 3 May 2001 (egg panel only), 21 September 2001, 4 December 2001, 19 February 2002 and 20 March 2002.

The IRAs are following the *IRA Guidelines*, a template for developing IRA reports, established by Biosecurity Australia. A copy of the Guidelines is available from Biosecurity Australia website (www.affa.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia - follow the links to 'IRAs' and then 'review of IRA process'). As two of the first groups to work through the templates the panels have focussed on making sure assumptions on risk are soundly based



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and well documented. They have also devoted considerable time to considering the methods for evaluating the pest and disease risks, including the release and exposure pathways.

The next meeting of the panels is to be held in Adelaide on 16 and 17 May 2002 and the panels will take the opportunity to visit a variety of poultry enterprises, including layer and broiler farms, egg processing plants and chicken processing plants, to investigate the level of biosecurity practiced and the economic impact of potential disease outbreaks.

There has been a change in the egg and egg products panel membership. Dr Heather Gardner has resigned from Animal Biosecurity and her place has been taken by her supervisor, Dr David Buckley, Manager of the Avian Section. As Manager of the Avian Section, Dr Buckley has responsibility for the avian IRAs of eggs, uncooked chicken meat and psittacine birds.

Next Steps

The panels are working on discussion papers that will be circulated to stakeholders for information and comment. The papers will set out the panels' approach to the method for undertaking the risk analyses. In particular, they will outline the release and exposure pathways, and the establishment and spread scenarios considered to be of importance in assessing the risk associated with importation of eggs and egg products, and of chicken meat. The method papers will also outline the mathematical model to be used in the semi-quantitative risk assessment.

Following consideration of stakeholder comments, the panels will continue to develop the draft IRA reports that will be circulated for 60 days for public comment.

Biosecurity Australia would welcome any comments on this ABPM.

Please pass this circular to other interested parties whom you may know of, and who should advise Biosecurity Australia if they wish to be included in future communications on these matters. All inquiries should be directed to the officer whose contact details appear below.

Confidentiality

Respondents are advised that, subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1982 and the Privacy Act 1988, all submissions received in response to Animal Biosecurity Policy Memoranda will be publicly available and 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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