

98/1820

Dear Stakeholder

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS ON SNOW PEAS FROM AFRICA

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the outcome of the first round of consultation on the import risk analysis (IRA) for snow peas as fresh vegetables from Africa, with specific reference to Zimbabwe.

My letter of 28 September 1998 invited all stakeholders to comment on the type of risk analysis process to be followed in this instance. All stakeholders who responded supported AQIS's proposal that the IRA be undertaken using the routine process, and accordingly AQIS will proceed in this way.

AQIS will now form an in-house team of scientists with expertise relevant to this particular IRA. The team will conduct the routine IRA using procedures based on international standards. The steps of the routine process are outlined in the recently published *AQIS Import Risk Analysis Process Handbook*, which has been distributed to stakeholders. During this process, AQIS will seek input from stakeholders and external technical experts if this proves necessary.

The draft IRA is expected to be released in February 1999. You will be informed if there are any significant variations to this timeframe.

If you wish to add a particular stakeholder to 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
Plant Quarantine Policy Branch
Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Tel: (02) 6272 5094
Fax: (02) 6272 3307

AQIS expresses its appreciation to all stakeholders who contributed to this consultation phase.

Yours sincerely

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7 December 1998