



Department of
AGRICULTURE
FISHERIES &
FORESTRY -
AUSTRALIA



File:

31 May 2002

ANIMAL BIOSECURITY POLICY MEMORANDUM 2002/25

IMPORT RISK ANALYSIS: PSITTACINE BIRDS

PROGRESS REPORT

This Animal Biosecurity Policy Memorandum (ABPM) provides stakeholders with a progress report on, and the next steps in, the Import Risk Analysis (IRA) of psittacine birds and eggs.

A technical issues paper for this IRA was released for public comment in December 1999. Eight stakeholders commented on the paper. Since that time the Risk Analysis Panel has met formally on a number of occasions: 10 April 2000, 22 June 2001, 20 July 2001, 22 February 2002, 28 March 2002 and 1 and 2 May 2002.

The panel has considered the stakeholder comments on the technical issues paper and has, more recently, been developing the draft IRA report, the next consultation step. The IRA follows the *IRA Guidelines*, a template for developing the IRA reports, established by Biosecurity Australia. A copy of the Guidelines is available from Biosecurity Australia's website

(www.affa.gov.au/biosecurityaustralia - follow the links to 'IRAs' and then 'review of IRA process'). The psittacine birds panel is one of the first groups to conduct an IRA using the template.

It was originally anticipated that the draft IRA report would have been released some time ago. However, the panel has devoted considerable time to carefully considering the methods for evaluating the pest and disease risks, including the release and exposure pathways. The panel has also focussed on making sure the analysis is soundly based and well documented.

The last panel meeting was held in Canberra on 1 and 2 May 2002 and the panel took the opportunity to visit a major breeding aviary outside Canberra to ensure that it is fully conversant with current biosecurity practice within industry, as well as to make sure that the consequences of a disease outbreak are considered in full in the IRA. The panel also made good progress on the draft IRA report and resolved a number of outstanding issues.

Next Steps

It is expected the panel will need to meet formally on at least one more occasion to finalise the draft IRA report. The next meeting is planned for 4-5 July 2002. The draft IRA report is circulated for 60 days public comment. Following consideration of stakeholder comments, the panel will be able to finalise the IRA.

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Biosecurity Australia would welcome any comments on this ABPM or any technical input stakeholders may wish to contribute to the IRA.

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 this matter. 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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