KEY ASPECTS TO PLANT BIOSECURITY RISK ANALYSIS

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Plant Biosecurity (Horticulture)
The Biosecurity Services Group (BSG) within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) takes the lead in biosecurity and quarantine policy development and the establishment and implementation of risk management measures across the biosecurity divisions (IRA Handbook, 2011).
For plant health issues, the roles and responsibilities within BSG are executed by:

**Pre-border**  
- Plant Biosecurity (Horticulture) & Plant Biosecurity (Grains & Forestry)

**At the border**  
- Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services (AQIS)

**Post-border**  
- Office of Chief Plant Protection Officer (OCPPO)
Plant Biosecurity (Horticulture)

- Import policy & planning
- Market access coordination & strategy

 Prepares risk assessments for horticultural products, develops technical assessments and submissions to support new market access, and to improve and maintain existing markets
Fundamental principles:

- Scientific basis
- Transparency
- Consultation
- Consistency
- Harmonisation
- Subject to appeal
IRA Process

Initiation

Risk analysis

Policy determination

Policy application

Initiation

Import proposal lodgement by exporting country

Priority consideration by Import Market Access Advisory Group (IMAAG)

Consultation on approach of risk analysis
Determination of approach

Based on:

- technical complexity
- differences to existing policy
- potential quarantine risk
- consider stakeholder comments

Regulated IRA or non-regulated IRA

- stakeholders notified

Endorsement of proposed IRA approach by Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine
IRA Process

An IRA will be undertaken if:

- Relevant risk management measures have not been established or

- Relevant risk management measures for similar commodities and/or pests combination do exist, but the likelihood and/or consequences of entry, establishment or spread of pests or diseases could differ significantly from those previously assessed
Expanded IRA (30 months)

- Significant differences in scientific opinion or
- Significant harm from an importation
- Includes Issues paper and review by Eminent scientist group

Standard IRA (24 months) in most other circumstances

Non-regulated IRA (no specific time frame)
Risk Analysis

Pest categorisation
- identifies the pests and diseases of quarantine concern that may be carried by the commodity
- Assessment of probability of entry, establishment and spread
- Assessment of potential economic consequences (including environmental impacts)
If the quarantine risks exceeds Australia’s ‘appropriate level of protection’ (ALOP) then:

- Identify potential risk management measures
- Determine if risk management measures reduce risk to achieve ALOP
The IRA Process (continued)

• The draft IRA report is prepared and published for a 60 day comment period, and stakeholders and the WTO are notified

• Comments reviewed and risk analysis recommendations finalised
The IRA Process (Continued)

- Risk analysis recommendations submitted to Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine for determination
- Policy determined by Director of Animal and Plant Quarantine
- Determination and final IRA report published
Appeals

• Process not followed

• Failure to consider significant body of scientific or technical information

• Considered by Import Risk Analysis Appeal Panel within 45 days
Conclusions

IRAs constitute a process by which Australia is able to demonstrate that its policies on imports of new animals, plants and their products are fair, science-based and robust.

It allows Australia to apply its standards openly, transparently and consistently in line with International agreements.