



**Queensland  
Government**

**Office of the Director-General**

Department of  
**Primary Industries**

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**28 MAY 2002**

Dr J Carter  
Inquiry Secretary  
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit  
Parliament House  
**CANBERRA ACT 2600**

**30 MAY 2002**

Dear Dr Carter

### **Review of Australia's Quarantine Function**

I refer to a letter from Mr Bob Charles, MP, Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit, to the Premier of Queensland, the Honourable Peter Beattie, MP, dated 15 April 2002 advising of the resumption of the inquiry into Australia's quarantine function and requesting submissions regarding the proposed terms of reference.

The Department of Primary Industries has been requested to coordinate a response on behalf of Queensland Government agencies.

In general, the terms of reference are considered to be comprehensive and able to cover the issues raised in the report entitled "Managing for Quarantine Effectiveness" prepared by the Commonwealth Auditor-General.

While there has been insufficient time to prepare a detailed submission, Queensland Government agencies raised a number of current issues for consideration of the Joint Committee. These are summarised as follows:

- stakeholder understanding of Australia's definition of Appropriate Level of Protection;
- coordination of the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) with human health agencies, particularly in the context of bio-terrorism threats;
- coordination of AQIS with immigration agencies, particularly in relation to border controls and disease;
- coordination of AQIS with environmental and natural resource management agencies, particularly in regard to invasive exotic species;

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- relative impacts of quarantine policy on agriculture, environment, industry and social amenity/health;
- impacts of quarantine policy on the genetic resources of native and introduced, plant and animal species;
- relationships between the Commonwealth and States in post-border quarantine issues; and
- perceptions created internationally with importers of Australian products by AQIS fees and charges policy.

I also note that there are a number of other current processes, such as COAG deliberations regarding foot and mouth disease that should be considered by the review.

A more detailed submission addressing these issues will be forwarded within the next three weeks.

Yours sincerely



Dr Warren Hoey  
**Director-General**

*Department of Primary Industries  
celebrating 2002 Year of the Outback*

**CC: Mr P Fennelly, Director-General, Department of State Development, PO Box 168, Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002**

**Mr T Hogan, Director-General, Department of Natural Resources and Mines, GPO Box 2454, Brisbane Qld 4001**

**Mr F Rockett, Director-General, Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy, GPO Box 806, Brisbane Qld 4001**

**Mr J Purtill, Director-General, Environmental Protection Agency, PO Box 155, Brisbane Albert Street Qld 4002**