Dr John Carter
Committee Secretary
Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Carter

REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S QUARANTINE FUNCTION

I write in response to your letter dated 18 June 2002 inviting AusAID to reply to the
Quarantine and Exports Advisory Council's (QEAC) submission to the Joint Committee
of Public Accounts and Audit.

Please find attached AusAID's response in the form of a submission.

If you have any further queries, please contact Peter Versegi, A/g Assistant Director
General Corporate Policy Branch on 6206 4008.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Davis
Director general
AusAID

Submission by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) to the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit on the Review of Australia's Quarantine Function

July 2002

1. This submission is a specific response to the Quarantine Export Advisory Committee (QEAC) submission paragraph 4.1.3. In that submission, the QEAC expressed a desire for AusAID to be even more active in quarantine related activities that assist countries to diagnose, control and where appropriate eradicate significant animal and plant pests and diseases.

2.   The Government's overseas aid program's overarching objective is to 'advance Australia's national interest by assisting developing countries to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable development'. This objective is articulated in the Government's policy document 'Better Aid for a Better Future' (Annex 1 to this submission) which sets out the strategic priorities and directions for the aid program. This broad mandate places numerous pressures on the Government's aid program. Addressing poverty requires action on a wide front. Australia's aid program focuses on a range of sectors including governance, education, health, rural development, environment and infrastructure. Poverty analyses have shown that expenditure on governance is particularly important. Building clear and accountable systems of government and fostering market economies are essential for helping developing countries to manage their resources effectively, tap into international trade and investment flows and achieve economic growth and sustainable poverty reduction.

3.   Within this policy framework, in 2002-2003 AusAID estimates it will spend $240 million to support rural development and agricultural activities, which includes programs that are specifically targeted at controlling and eradicating plant and animal pests and diseases. Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) the aid program collaborates with developing country governments in the region to undertake and apply the results of research in the area of pest and disease eradication.

4.   The Government's aid program supports a wide range of quarantine related programs. This includes activities in all our closest neighbours, particularly Papua New Guinea, East Timor, Indonesia, the Pacific and ASEAN countries. More specific activity details are outlined in Annex 2 of this submission. In addition to these activities, further programs are in the pipeline. For example, in September 2001 Mr Vaille announced a $3.5 million *Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity Building Program* for ASEAN countries that will further expand AusAID engagement on quarantine matters in developing countries. AusAID has, and will continue to maintain active dialogue with other Australian Government stakeholders during the feasibility and design process for this and other activities in the quarantine sector.

5.   AusAID is in regular policy dialogue at a working level with other Australian Government Departments with an interest in quarantine capacity building. In 2001, AusAID chaired an informal whole-of-government quarantine working group. Other members of the group include the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Australia (AFFA), Australian Quarantine Inspection Service (AQIS), Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and ACIAR. AusAID is currently facilitating an IT based network to enable more effective engagement with other government stakeholders and implementation of quarantine related programs.

6.   The quarantine working group has acknowledged AusAID's broad mandate and the demand-driven nature of development cooperation, which is always subject to mutual agreement with partner countries. AusAID programs are the outcome of a long process of analysis and consultation, both with stakeholders in Australia and partner countries. The aid program is therefore based on development needs at the country, not the sectoral level. The specific quarantine related activities outlined in Annex 2 are the outcome of this process.

7.   AusAID has risk procedures in place that monitor and assess the viability of our aid interventions against a broad spectrum of development effectiveness criteria. For example, risk assessments are completed at all stages of the aid cycle - from program identification, to feasibility, design and implementation. In addition, AusAID must comply with the overseas aid provisions of the Australian Commonwealth environment legislation (the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999). In order to do this AusAID undertakes environmental screening of all aid activities so that likely environmental impacts can be identified prior to approval. This enables AusAID to ensure that all aid activities that are likely to have environmental impacts including potential impacts on Australia are properly assessed and managed.

8.   Where consistent with the Government's aid program policy objectives and individual partner country needs and priorities, AusAID will continue to fund activities that assist developing countries in the eradication of plant and animal pests and diseases and other quarantine related activities.

ANNEX 1

ANNEX 2

ANNEX 2: Quarantine Related Activities

Nature of Activity	Focus	Funding Agency	Australian implementing Agency	Stat*
BURMA				
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID	OIE	a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
AADCP: EAC Quality Assurance Systems for Fruit and vegetables	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Improvement of Quality Assurance … Fish and Fishery Products	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Food Safety Measures	Regional	AusAID		a
CAMBODIA				
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID	OIE	a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Rice	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
AADCP: EAC Quality Assurance Systems for Fruit and vegetables	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Improvement of QualityAssurance … Fish and Fishery Products	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Food Safety Measures	Regional	AusAID		a
CHINA				
APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Quarantine Administrative Training	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	AFFA	c
Plant Quarantine Project	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Animal Quarantine Project	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Agricultural Support Services - Aust Assistance	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Citrus & Rice IPM Study Zhejiang	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Tarim Basin II Project (IPM component)	Bilateral	AusAID		a
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
Bama: Integrated Poverty Alleviation (poultry vaccination)	Bilateral	AusAID	CAA	c
Preparation of reference publications on pests and weeds of agriculture and plantation forestry in China and SE Asia	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	a
Development of quarantine training software	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	a

EAST TIMOR				
APEC SUPPORT: Containing Transborder Pest Movement	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: survey of capacity and needs of regional institutions holding collections of plant pathogens	Regional	AusAID	AFFA / ASEANET	a
East Timor/Australia Quarantine Barrier	Bilateral	AusAID	AQIS	a
Customs Officers for East Timor	Bilateral	AusAID	ACS	a
Timor Animal Health Project	Bilateral	AusAID		p
Quarantine, Animal and Plant Health Support Project	Bilateral	unknown	AFFA	p
INDONESIA				
APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: survey of capacity and needs of regional institutions holding collections of plant pathogens	Regional	AusAID	AFFA / ASEANET	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Containing Transborder Pest Movement	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: electronic system for clearance documentation	Regional	AusAID	AQIS	a
APEC SUPPORT: Strengthening Food Analysis Networks	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	AFFA	a
GSLP-Animal/Plant Health & Quarantine I.Jaya	Bilateral	AusAID	AQIS / AFFA	a
GSLP-Strengthening Animal Quarantine I.Jaya	Bilateral	AusAID	AQIS	c
GSLP-Database of Quarantine Standards	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	c
Balitvet: Animal Disease Research	Bilateral	AusAID	CSIRO	c
Brucellosis Eradication	Bilateral	AusAID	CSIRO	c
GSLP-Diagnostic Tests for Nipah Virus	Bilateral	AusAID	CSIRO	a
GSLP-Animal Disease Management Training	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	c
GSLP-Collaboration in Bovine Disease Diagnosis	Bilateral	AusAID	CSIRO	c
Eastern Islands Vet. Service Phase II	Bilateral	AusAID		c
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Rice	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
Training in exotic disease recognition, surveys and lab use	Bilateral	AQIS	AQIS	c
AAECP III: Fruit Quality Assurance Program	Regional	AusAID		c
Quality Assurance for Animal Health Laboratories in Indonesia and Thailand	Regional	AFFA	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
Eastern Indonesia Rural Sector Development Proposal	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	p
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
SEARP: Casuarina Blister Blight Disease	Regional	AusAID		c
AAECP III: Analytical Quality Assurance for Food Laboratories	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	AFFA	c
SPS Risk Management Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
Food Risk Analysis Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
Detection and strain differentiation of plant pathogens … in Australasian / Pacific region	Regional	ACIAR		c

Improved diagnosis and control of peanut stripe virus	Regional	ACIAR		c
New approaches to the control of bacterial wilt in tomato and other vegs	Regional	ACIAR		c
Support for development of CD-ROM Crop Protection Compendia	Regional	ACIAR		
Computer-assisted learning to improve training standards in grain storage	Regional	ACIAR		c
Identification and control of bee mites	Regional	ACIAR		a
Diagnosis and likely spread of Trypanosoma evansi in PNG	Regional	ACIAR	ACIAR	c
Development of a vaccine for Jembrana Disease	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	c
Biological threats to Saccharum germplasm and sugar production in PNG, Indonesia and Australia	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	a
LAOS				
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID	OIE	a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
Improved diagnostic and control methodologies for livestock diseases	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	a
Development of field survey and information management	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	c
AADCP: EAC Quality Assurance Systems for Fruit and vegetables	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Improvement of QualityAssurance … Fish and Fishery Products	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Food Safety Measures	Regional	AusAID		a
PHILIPPINES				
APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: electronic system for clearance documentation	Regional	AusAID	AQIS	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Quarantine Pest Risk Analysis	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	AFFA	c
Foot & Mouth Disease Project	Bilateral		AusAID	
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID		a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
AAECP III: Fruit Quality Assurance Program	Regional	AusAID		c
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
Food Risk Analysis Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
Nucelotide Sequence determination of Cadang-Cadang … Pacific Area	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR		c
New approaches to the control of bacterial wilt in tomato and other vegetables	Regional	ACIAR		c
Surveys of whiteflies and associated crop virus diseases	Regional	ACIAR		a
Computer-assisted learning to improve training standards in grain storage	Regional	ACIAR		c
Identification and control of bee mites	Regional	ACIAR		a

THAILAND

APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: electronic system for clearance documentation	Regional	AusAID	AQIS	a
Quarantine Project	Bilateral	AusAID		c
QTA prog: Quarantine Technical Assistance	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	a
QTA prog: Import pest risk analysis	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	a
QTA prog: Nipah Virus Technology Transfer	Bilateral	AusAID	CSIRO	c
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID	OIE	a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Rice	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Vegetables	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
AAECP III: Fruit Quality Assurance Program	Regional	AusAID		c
Quality Assurance for Animal Health Laboratories in Indonesia and Thailand	Regional	AFFA	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
Quarantine risk analysis workshop	Bilateral	AusAID	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
EDI Pilot Project on Electronic Health Certification Messaging	Regional	ACIAR		c
Food Risk Analysis Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
Biology and control of fruit flies in Thailand	Regional	ACIAR		c
Detection and strain differentiation of plant pathogens … in Australasian / Pacific region	Regional	ACIAR		c
Control of Papaya Ringspot	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR		c
Surveys of whiteflies and associated crop virus diseases	Regional	ACIAR		a
Low cost disinfestation systems for fruit	Regional	ACIAR		a
Improved methods in diagnosis, epidemiology, … information management	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	c

VIETNAM

APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
Aust/FAO Integrated Pest Management	Bilateral	AusAID	FAO	c
CARD: improved safety and quality of horticultural exports	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID		a
CARD: fruit fly treatment & quarantine training	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	AFFA	a
CARD: tech infrastructure for quality assurance	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID		a

CARD: research and information dissemination - fungal disease	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID		a
CARD: rodent management	Reg Prog Single Country	AusAID	CSIRO	a
SEARP: Foot & Mouth Eradication Program	Regional	AusAID		a
SEARP: pre-marketing poultry vaccination testing Newcastle Project	Regional	AusAID	ACIAR	c
SEARP: Integrated Pest Management for Rice	Regional	AusAID	FAO	a
AAECP III: Fruit Quality Assurance Program	Regional	AusAID		c
AADCP: EAC Strengthening Animal Health Management and Quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
AADCP: EAC Regional Plant Health Initiative	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	p
SPS Risk Management Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
SPS Institutional Strengthening in Vietnam	Regional	ACIAR		c
Food Risk Analysis Training	Regional	ACIAR		c
Diagnosis and control of plant diseases in northern Vietnam	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR		a
Surveys of whiteflies and associated crop virus diseases	Regional	ACIAR		a
Computer-assisted learning to improve training standards in grain storage	Regional	ACIAR		c
Low cost disinfestation systems for fruit	Regional	ACIAR		a
Monitoring mycotoxins and pesticides … for risk mngmnt…	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR		a
AADCP: EAC Quality Assurance Systems for Fruit and vegetables	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Improvement of QualityAssurance … Fish and Fishery Products	Regional	AusAID		a
AADCP: EAC Food Safety Measures	Regional	AusAID		a
COOK ISLANDS				
Giant Clam Hatchery	Bilateral	AusAID	ACIAR	c
FIJI				
Brucellosis Eradication	Bilateral	AusAID		c
KIRIBATI				
Quarantine Technical Assistance Project	Bilateral	AusAID		c
NIUE				
Lime Fruit Industry Assistance	Bilateral	AusAID		c
PAPUA NEW GUINEA				
APEC SUPPORT: dev technical regional guidelines, policies and strategies for live aquatic animal quarantine	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a

APEC SUPPORT: survey of capacity and needs of regional institutions hodlinc collections of plant pathogens	Regional	AusAID	AFFA / ASEANET	a
APEC SUPPORT: Training in Import or Quarantine Risk Analysis	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
APEC SUPPORT: Containing Transborder Pest Movement	Regional	AusAID	AFFA	a
Agricultural Quarantine Support Project	Bilateral	AusAID	AQIS / NAQIA	a
PNG Drought/Agric Rehabilitation Project	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Diagnosis and likely spread of Trypanosoma evansi in PNG	Regional	ACIAR	ACIAR	c
REGIONAL SOUTH PACIFIC				
APEC SUPPORT: survey of capacity and needs of regional institutions holding collections of plant pathogens	Regional	AusAID	AFFA / ASEANET	a
Regional Pest Management Project	Regional	AusAID		a
SPC XXB - Plant Protection in Micronesia	Regional	AusAID		a
Regional Fruit Fly Project Phase III	Regional	AusAID		a
Preparation of reference publications on pests and weeds of agriculture and plantation forestry in Sth Pacific	Reg Prog Single Country	ACIAR	ACIAR	a
SAMOA				
Quarantine Support	Bilateral	AusAID		a
TONGA				
Quarantine Assistance	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Quarantine Support Phase 11	Bilateral	AusAID		c
Quarantine Support	Bilateral	AusAID		c

* a = approved, c = complete, p = proposed

NOTE:
- o this list of activities was compiled manually from searches of AusAID's Activity Management System and from contributions from AFFA and ACIAR.

- o activities which relate directly and indirectly to quarantine have been incorporated into this list

- o programs which have a regional focus have been listed under each country in which the program is active

     activities with a commencement date from 1985 onward have been included in this list. Most activities appearing in this list were conducted within the past ten years, and older information is in some cases sketchy