



[CP 04 attachment B]
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HON WARREN TRUSS MP
Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

The Hon Kim Chance MLC
Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
11th Floor Dumas House
2 Havelock Street
WEST PERTH WA 6005

Dear Minister

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 2002 regarding the partnership approach to biosecurity in relation to the Memorandum of Understanding on Animal and Plant Quarantine Measures (MOU).

I have agreed to your suggested wording change to include the statement:

The Commonwealth is committed to addressing regional differences in pest status and risk and consequent SPS measures as part of import risk analysis.

I have amended the wording proposed in my letter of 23 July 2002 to include that change. The text, as amended, will therefore read:

The Commonwealth is committed to addressing regional differences in pest status and risk and consequent SPS measures as part of import risk analysis. The Commonwealth will consult fully with the States and Territories on the import risk analysis (IRA) work program and on arrangements for IRAs about to commence. The Commonwealth will, in conducting each IRA, take into account information on regional pest status and risk profile provided by the States and Territories.

Additionally the Commonwealth will consult with the States and Territories at every stage in the IRA process including on the outcomes of each IRA to address issues arising from regional differences in risk.

In return, the States and Territories will assist in each stage of the IRA process wherever possible, in particular through early and comprehensive input of regional pest status and risk information. States and Territories will also contribute to the IRA process by making available relevant specialist staff for risk



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analysis panels and technical working groups. States and Territories will work with the Commonwealth in communicating the results of IRAs and other relevant matters to regional industries and communities.

Specifications relating to regional differences in pest status and risk will be enhanced in the *Draft Technical Guidelines for Import Risk Analysis*, taking into account PIMC decisions.

As for consultation with States and Territories during the IRA process, you would be aware that in the revised draft IRA Framework two new consultation points were specified for States and Territories, to consider issues crucial to the partnership and our joint responsibilities in the administration of quarantine. The States are, commonly, closely involved with the IRA process as providers of specialist advice and skills, and are also involved as stakeholders in the IRA process. Taken as a whole, I am convinced that this represents close and detailed involvement.

Discussions on this subject at the recent PIMC meeting were most valuable. I agree that the partnership between the Commonwealth and States and Territories is vital, and thank you for your comments.

Yours sincerely

24 OCT 2002

WARREN TRUSS