

Monday, 11 May 2009

Dear Stakeholder,

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ) has now released a draft analysis of the risks on “Pigeons (*Columba livia*) from Australia” for public consultation. It is available electronically on the MAF web-site at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/biosecconsult>

An analysis of risk is the first stage in the development of import health standard(s) that set out the requirements to be met before “Pigeons (*Columba livia*) from Australia” may be imported and given biosecurity clearance. No decisions have yet been made - MAF will make decisions only after work has been done to assess all the relevant information, including information provided as part of this consultation process. The information that MAF will consider may include information on biological risks, benefits, costs and practicalities of imposing certain measures during the import health standard process.

MAF’s process is to consult with anyone interested in the analysis of the risk or final import health standard. As part of this consultation, MAF fulfils the requirements of the Biosecurity Act to consult with representatives of persons that have an interest in the final import health standard.

We welcome submissions from all interested parties on the analysis of the risk and risk management options presented in this document so that they may inform the subsequent development of the import health standard.

QUESTIONS

We particularly welcome specific comment on the following questions:

1. What are your views on the risk assessment for each hazard group or organism? Are the risk assessments accurate? What changes, if any, are required? Do you have any relevant evidence to support suggested changes?
2. Has the efficacy of risk management measures for each hazard group or organism been adequately described?
3. Which risk management options do you consider most appropriate, and what makes them your preferred choice?
4. Are there alternative measures or packages of measures that you consider will effectively manage the risk?



SUBMISSIONS

If you wish to make a submission, please include the following information:

- the title of the risk analysis;
- your name and title;
- your organisation's name (if applicable);
- your address and contact details (e.g. phone, fax, and email); and
- the number(s) of the sections you are commenting on.

We would appreciate receiving written submissions by **Friday 26th of June 2009**. Please address them (or any related questions) to:

MAF Biosecurity New Zealand,
Attn. Risk Analysis Team Support Officer
PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140
Phone 04 894 0310
risk.analysis@maf.govt.nz.

Please be aware that submissions are public information and may be the subject of requests under the Official Information Act 1982. If you consider that any or all of the information in your submission should be treated as confidential or commercially sensitive, please state this clearly in your submission. Any decision to withhold information under the Official Information Act may be reviewed by the Ombudsman.

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No decisions have been made. At the end of the consultation period, all submissions will be reviewed and a document summarising the submissions and how they have been taken into account published and made available for viewing unless the level of submissions does not warrant this (e.g. on rare occasions when only single or no submissions are received). The risk analysis will then be redrafted if required to take into account submissions that may change the options.

The risk analysis will then contribute to the development of one or more import health standards issued under the Biosecurity Act 1993, that specify the requirements to be met before goods may be imported and given biosecurity clearance. The final Import Health Standard will take account of the risk analysis options, the feedback from consultation, and any other issues such as the benefits and costs of the measures. The final Import Health Standard will also include details around implementation.

Yours sincerely



Christine Reed
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MAF Biosecurity New Zealand