



31 March 2008

Quarantine and Biosecurity Review  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601

### **Comment pertaining to biosecurity review**

I have one comment pertaining to my work in plant pathology.

The laboratory where I work at Tamworth is not a quarantine facility. The expense and other considerations make this impractical for us.

In 1999, I applied to AQIS to import very small amounts of glasshouse-generated, dried leaf tissue infected with non sap transmissible plant viruses. This application was rejected, although a similar application in 1996 was granted. The material was to be used as positive control for serological tests, such as is provided with ELISA diagnostic kits imported from overseas.

Positive controls are very important for serological tests for viruses, for research which benefits Australian Agricultural Industries.

Based on my experience and information, the risk of importing this kind of material is very small for plant viruses generally and nil in the case of non-sap transmissible viruses.

I suggest that the limitations on importing and using this kind of material in non quarantine approved premises be reviewed.

Mark W. Schwinghamer  
Plant Pathologist