EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Amendment to the List of Specimens Taken to be Suitable for Live Import
in accordance with paragraph 303EC (1) (c)

(Issued under Authority of the Minister for the Environment and Heritage)

Under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), a live specimen is allowed to be imported only if it is included on the list of specimens suitable for live import (live import list).

The list was established in accordance with s.303EB of the EPBC Act and has two parts. Part 1 comprises species exempt from the need for an import permit under the EPBC Act. Part 2 comprises species that can be imported with a permit under the EPBC Act.

Caenorhabditis elegans (a nematode) is listed on Part 2 of the live import list and is the subject of research into gene function. The conditions attached to this import are Research only, and Quarantine Approved Premise only.

AQIS does not believe that C. elegans poses a significant quarantine risk and that a Quarantine Approved Premise only requirement is unnecessary.

This species was permitted for entry under the previous legislation, the Wildlife Protection (Regulation of Exports and Imports) Act 1982, with no conditions attached to the import of this species. For this reason C. elegans should be listed on Part 2 of the live import list without conditions.

In accordance with s. 303EC(1)(c) of the EPBC Act, the effect of this instrument is to correct an inaccuracy to Part 2 of the list by removing conditions of Research only, Quarantine Approved Premise only attached to the listing of C. elegans.

This instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the Legislative Instruments Act 2003.

The instrument commenced on the day after it was registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.