AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS NOTICE NO. 2005/66

Amendments to the *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* - dangerous dogs

The *Customs (Prohibited Imports) Regulations 1956* (the Regulations) have been amended to prohibit absolutely the importation of dogs of the breed *Perro de Presa Canario* or *Presa Canario.* The breed has been added to Item 26 of Schedule 1 to the Regulations.

Item 26 of Schedule 1 to the Regulations lists breeds of dogs the importation of which is prohibited absolutely. The following breeds of dog are listed in Item 26:

* dogo Argentino
* fila Brasileiro
* Japanese tosa
* American pit bull terrier or pit bull terrier
* Perro de Presa Canario or Presa Canario

The amendments have effect from 16 November 2005 inclusive.

The breed (otherwise known as the Canary Dog) originated in Spain and was originally bred for organised fights. Through breeding, it has become an extremely game, powerful and able fighting animal.

In November 2004, the National Consultative Committee on Animal Welfare (NCCAW) recommended to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry that the breed be added to Schedule 1 to the Regulations. The NCCAW advises the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on animal welfare matters of national significance.

Enquiries concerning this notice should be directed to Gary Atkinson, Community Protection on telephone number (02) 6275 6307 or fax number (02) 6229 3840.

Philomena Carnell National Manager Cargo Branch CANBERRA ACT

November 2005

