# Frequently asked questions

**Question: What has prompted the department to complete this review?**

Answer: We initiated this review in response to requests from the Australian zoo community identifying imports of these species as a priority. Australia has not imported live zoo hippos or their genetic material into Australian zoos since the 1980s. Because of this, there are few hippos left in Australian zoos, and there is low genetic diversity among those that remain.

**Question: Where will the hippos come from?**

Answer: Hippos will only be sourced and imported from approved, licensed or registered zoos in approved countries. The list of approved countries can be found in the draft report. Wild-caught hippos will not be eligible for importation.

**Question: Is there a biosecurity risk to Australia?**

Answer: Hippos are known to carry several disease agents that could be a potential risk to Australia’s animal and human health. This draft review examines specific identified biosecurity risks relating to the importation of zoo hippos or their semen. Hippos and their semen will only be eligible for import if they are sourced from zoos in approved countries, and only if they meet specific proposed import requirements. The proposed import requirements have been developed to protect Australia from the identified biosecurity risks as detailed in the draft report.

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024
This publication is licensed by Commonwealth of Australia under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.