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## **Inquiry into new post-entry quarantine facility**

The Public Works Committee is conducting an inquiry into the proposed new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria.

For imports of live animals and plants, periods of detention in post-entry quarantine facilities are important to protect Australia's animal and plant health status.

The objective of the project is to deliver a single fit-for-purpose facility that will meet contemporary quarantine standards and operations. Existing post-entry quarantine facilities at each of five sites around Australia are over 25 years old and near the end of useful life.

The estimated cost of the project is \$293.1 million. Construction is expected to be complete by late 2018.

The Committee's Chair, Kirsten Livermore MP, said the Committee will conduct an inspection and public hearing for the project in March 2013.

"The proposed complex at Mickleham will facilitate biosecurity measures developed to manage the quarantine risks associated with the importation of these live animals and plants. The new facility will play a crucial part in the protection of Australia's agricultural industries and unique native flora and fauna. The Committee will examine this project to ensure that it provides value for money and meets the business needs of the Australian Government for the future delivery of post-entry quarantine functions" Ms Livermore said.

Full details on the proposal are available on the Committee's website: [www.aph.gov.au/pwc](http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc)

### **Submissions to the inquiry close on 19 March 2013.**

Details of the public hearing program will be announced soon.

**NB** the Public Works Committee is neither involved in the tendering process nor the awarding of contracts. Enquiries on those matters should be addressed to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

**For interview:** Contact the Chair's office on (07) 4922 6604.

**For further information**, including how to make a submission, the public hearing times, and copies of submissions when they become available, please visit the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/pwc> or contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4636.