




Australian Chicken Meat
Federation (ACMF) Inc

19 March 2013

Ms Kristen Livermore MP
Chair, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

	<u>Submission No. 13</u> <u>(Quarantine Facility)</u> Date: <u>19/03/13</u>
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By Email: pwc@aph.gov.au

Inquiry into the new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria

Dear Ms Livermore,

The Australian Chicken Meat Federation (ACMF) is the peak coordinating body for participants in the chicken meat industry in Australia and recognized as the industry representative by the Australian Government. ACMF represents both the producers and the processors.

As you are probably aware, one of the main operators in the commercial chicken meat industry does rely on the quarantine facility at Torrens Island for its importation of fertile eggs and has been involved directly in some of the consultation. To ensure timely access to the latest genetics produced by the world's main breeding companies, members of the chicken meat industry also make extensive use of private quarantine facilities and for this reason ACMF has not been involved closely in the discussions that were held in the lead-up to the current proposal for a new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria. We also did not become aware of the current call for submission by your Committee until late last week.

With this background in mind, we do not have the time to develop a major separate submission. Nevertheless, we do wish to express our concern about the physical co-location particularly of live birds and fertile eggs but also all other species in the new facility. We are concerned that such a co-location is likely to bring with it increased risk and increased impact of any detection of disease on a broader spectrum of industry sectors.

Physical separation is the most potent biosecurity measure and the new facility will remove much of the current physical separation without any explicit and public risk assessment that such co-location is likely to bring with it.

This concern is shared by the major processor who currently makes use of the Government facility as well as those chicken meat processors and producers who use private quarantine facilities but nevertheless see the proposed arrangement as exposing our industry to a new and increased risk.

We are aware of the more detailed submission by the Australasian Veterinary Poultry Association (AVPA) and would like to refer your Committee to that submission for a more detailed argument. ACMF fully shares the concerns expressed in AVPA's submission regarding the increased risk of a single consolidated multi-species facility. We therefore urge you to determine whether these risks have been assessed and considered appropriately and to ensure that additional consideration is given to this matter, should the existing studies be found to be lacking as seems to be the case based on the evidence available to us.

Thank you for the opportunity to raise our concerns with your Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andreas Dubs
Executive Director