


Office of the Chief Executive Officer

Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 03
 (North Ryde)
Date: 12/01/2011

Dear Committee Secretary

I am writing to support the submission made by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research for approval of its proposal to move the Sydney chemical testing facilities of the National Measurement Institute (NMI) into new premises at North Ryde.

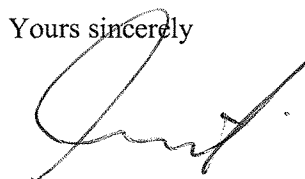
Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) is a bi-national government agency whose main responsibility is to develop and administer the *Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code* (the Code). The Code lists compositional requirements for foods such as maximum permitted levels for additives, maximum residue limits for chemicals and maximum levels for environmental contaminants. The Code also prescribes general provisions for food safety and the labelling of food.

FSANZ works very closely with NMI in the area of chemical and biological measurements for food safety. We recognise that their present premises at Pymble in Sydney are far from ideal and that a move to modern, more efficient premises will assist NMI to deliver a better service to its stakeholders, including FSANZ. The proposed move would be of significant value to FSANZ in this respect.

In addition, there is a possibility that a centre for training laboratory staff in food safety measurement techniques could be established in the planned new premises. This would be of great value to the food safety community in Australia and in our region. I understand the establishment of such a centre would not be possible in NMI's current premises. Such a facility would increase markedly Australia's capability in this area.

For these reasons we strongly support the proposal.

Yours sincerely



Steve McCutcheon
Chief Executive Officer

2 December 2010