



Submission No. 16  
(Quarantine Facility)  
Date: 19/03/13

Submission to Public Works Committee regarding the Avian Facility in the proposed new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria

Priam Australia (Priam Psittaculture Centre Research & Breeding)  
March 19. 2013

Listed with DAFF as a Stakeholder.

[http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/House\\_of\\_Representatives  
\\_Committees?url=pwc/quarantinefacility/index.htm](http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House_of_Representatives_Committees?url=pwc/quarantinefacility/index.htm)

### **Avian Facility**

#### **Future Provision/Capacity**

Modifications to the avian compound would better able the achievement of the primary objective "to accommodate high risk species for the next 50 years (with particular emphasis on flexibility and adaptability of the infrastructure at the new site)". 2010 information from the [Australian Companion Animal Council](#) indicates that there are 3.41 million dogs (trending slightly downwards), 2.35 million cats (trending stable) and 8.1 million birds (trending upwards) kept as pets in Australia, and for many years one of the primary enquiries of AQIS is in regards to the importation of companion parrots. The demand for avian quarantine is very similar to that for cats and dogs, with quarantine often required for small consignments, export and import.

Improved efficiency could be provided with more, smaller, isolated avian units. This would allow numerous smaller consignments (of one to tens of birds) to be quarantined at the same time.

The foot print (size) of the units can be smaller, especially if there is an associated cost reflecting their use. Understanding that the overall foot print (land use) may possibly not be as high a contributing cost as the High-Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filters required for each unit. Although unlike commercial poultry, aviculturalist are not

interested in importation of thousands of birds at a time. With more units being able to run independently from each other, there could be far more use by the general public.

The cost could go down per unit if the frequency could increase. Smaller imports would allow for more participation by the larger avicultural community and sustain a longer active life span of the quarantine premises.

### **Financial Considerations**

The cost per unit is an important consideration regarding the ability of the facility to cater for all avian clients. If cost is prohibitive the current illegal movement of avian species will continue.

### **Communications**

As a Biosecurity Stakeholder, we feel that we have not been adequately informed of ongoing issues, including information regarding this Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works.