



25th March 2013

The Secretary
Public Works Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Submission No. 21
(Quarantine Facility)
Date: 25/03/13

Email: pwc@aph.gov.au

Re: Post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria

Dear Public Works Committee,

Fleming's Nurseries has been a large importer for many years of trees and shrubs and uses the post entry quarantine facilities regularly and we would like to submit our thoughts on the proposed new post-entry quarantine facility at Mickleham, Victoria.

Firstly, we would like to say that we endorse the new facility and are looking forward to the operations opening in their new location in October 2015.

With the sudden closure of the plant quarantine station at Eagle Farm and the unknown status of what might happen in the future, either short to medium term, to other state run facilities our concern is whether the new facility at Mickleham is designed with enough bench space in the glasshouse and greenhouse area from the opening.

If the space that has been allocated currently only covers what we currently have at Knoxfield and Eastern Creek, then it maybe well undersized. Over the last ten years there has been a big reduction in the numbers of imports for certain ornamentals due to Sudden Oak Death disease. Since there are new policies afoot to allow these imports to commence again and be held over in a government quarantine facility for a two-year period, we may have the old problem of not having enough space available for all future imports.

We would ask that the Public Works Committee ensure that the new facility can meet the capacity lost through the closure of the state operated facilities currently and that we have additional space available to cope with an increase in future imports.

We would like DAFF and Biosecurity Australia to try a 'encourage' a privately owned fumigation company to be located nearby the airport/new quarantine station at Mickleham so material can move swiftly, easily and safely from the airport inspection facility to the Mickleham quarantine site. The movement of plant material to and from the fumigators needs to be reviewed. Currently, this one issue creates us the most problems in importation and is often the cause of material perishing due to lengthy delays in transfer.

We look forward to being able to ship our plants in the future to this 'super' centre.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Darmody
New Product Development Manager

