



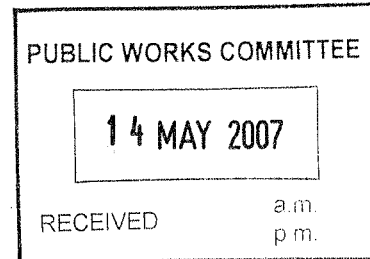
Australian Government
Australian Customs Service

SUBMISSION5.....

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140 Creek St
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14 May 2007

The Hon Judi Moylan MP
Chair
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600



Dear Ms Moylan

PROPOSED FIT-OUT OF NEW LEASED PREMISES FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE AT THE CIRCUIT, BRISBANE AIRPORT

I am writing in response to Submission No 4 from the Acting Premier and Minister for Trade for the Queensland Government, Anna Bligh MP in relation to the proposed new leased premises for the Australian Customs Service (Customs) at The Circuit within the No. 1 Airport Drive precinct at Brisbane Airport.

Background

The Committee's Senior Researcher forwarded us a copy of Submission No. 4 by facsimile on 10 May 2007. In Ms Bligh's submission she states she does not consider an extensive submission on the proposal is necessary from the Queensland Government. However, she adds that she would appreciate details on the infrastructure and operational measures that would be in place to provide bio-security at the new facility.

Supplementary Submission

Customs primary role at the border is to regulate trade and travel, collect revenue and enforce relevant Australian Government laws. Part of the role in enforcing legislation requires that Customs intervenes with items that pose a threat to environmental bio-security, including pests, foodstuffs and plant products. An agreement currently exists between Customs and the Australian Quarantine & Inspection Service (AQIS) that provides that any items pertaining to agriculture, food or animals be immediately referred to AQIS for them to take responsibility for the treatment and/or detention of such products.

Customs does manage a detained good store for the detention of seized items that may cause harm to the Australian community. These include a range of prohibited imports, including 'precursor' chemicals that may be used in the production of illicit drugs. These goods are stored under specifically controlled conditions in our detained goods store. In scoping our initial requirements, Customs identified the need for negative air pressure within the detained goods store as well as the installation of a separate air-conditioning system and fume cabinets to eliminate the leak of chemical products to the atmosphere. These specifications were incorporated in the original Accommodation Requirements Brief that was released with the open market documentation on 17 June 2006.

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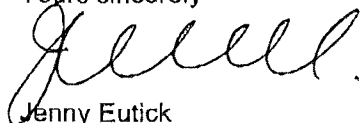
Customs also maintains a strong focus on health and safety requirements and ensures compliance with all relevant federal and state legislation. To this end, we have incorporated the installation of fume cabinets and negative air pressure in our Investigation evidence storage rooms as well as in the inwards mail screening room. This not only protects officers dealing with the inwards mail, but also limits the spread of high-risk substances or evidence to Customs clients, public accessing the facility and other Customs employees.

Customs has strict governance procedures in place currently for the treatment of hazardous and dangerous goods and has incorporated enhanced features in their design planning to address future bio-security and terrorist related threats on Australian Government establishments.

I trust this information will be of assistance to you.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Jo Crooks, Manager Accommodation Projects on 07 3835 3112 if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Eutick
Regional Director
Queensland