



**Australian Government**

**Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service**

**BSG 26 – ATTACHMENT 1**

Dear

### **Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements**

The May 2010 Budget announced that scoping work for future post entry quarantine arrangements would continue during 2010 – 2011. As a result, the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service is continuing to progress scoping study work to consider alternative options for future post entry quarantine arrangements.

AQIS is required to provide advice to Government on these options by early 2011. In order to fully inform this advice, and to ensure a complete analysis of the options, AQIS is seeking industry stakeholder input into the development of this advice, through a series of workshops.

Workshops specifically focusing on the interests of stakeholders using the equine and ruminants quarantine facilities will be conducted from July through September 2010, with an initial Stakeholder Briefing taking place in Melbourne on 22 July 2010.

Further meetings will follow in mid August and mid September, including a Functional Design Brief workshop. We will confirm the specific dates and venues shortly, but we would greatly appreciate an early indication of your interest.

Please RSVP to [greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au](mailto:greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au) by 5 July 2010 to advise if you will be able to attend the Stakeholder Briefing on 22 July 2010.

You are welcome to forward this information to any other industry participants or stakeholders you believe will benefit the consultation program.

If you have any questions you would specifically like us to address at the briefing, please email them to [greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au](mailto:greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au) or telephone Greg Fullam on 02 6272 5333.

This advice to Government provides us with a unique opportunity to comprehensively plan for Australia's long-term future post entry quarantine needs, and I encourage you to attend, and to contribute your views and insights at these workshops.

Yours sincerely



Peter Moore  
A/g General Manager  
Operational Resourcing and Infrastructure  
Biosecurity Services Group, AQIS,  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

11 June 2010

Attachments:

- A – Background information
- B – Letter sent November 2009
- C – Description of the consultation program
- D – Description of the Two Pass process, underpinning AQIS' approach

## **Attachment A**

### **Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements: Background information**

#### **Introduction**

The Australian Government, through AQIS in the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF), currently leases and operates five post entry quarantine facilities:

1. Eastern Creek in New South Wales;
2. Knoxfield in Victoria
3. Spotswood in Victoria;
4. Byford in Western Australia;
5. Torrens Island in South Australia

Leases on all current facilities are due to expire between 2010 and 2015. Extensions of existing lease arrangements for the major stations are either not possible in some cases or not assured in others.

Consequently AQIS is required to provide advice to Government on options for possible future post entry quarantine arrangements. This advice will include the expected costs and benefits of potential future options, including the estimated whole of life operating costs for each alternative. The advice is scheduled to be provided to Government in early 2011.

Consultation with industry and relevant stakeholder groups forms an important part of developing advice for government consideration.

## Attachment B

### Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements: Letter sent November 2009



**Australian Government**

**Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry**

Dear

#### **Beale Review Implementation – Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements**

On 23 September 2009, the Hon. Tony Burke MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, announced another step in the implementation of reforms for the Australian biosecurity system. A copy of the press release is attached for information.

Included in that announcement was the initiation of planning work for future post entry quarantine arrangements. The Biosecurity Services Group of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry is now working with the Property and Construction Division of the Asset Management Group of the Department of Finance and Deregulation to prepare business cases for consideration by Government.

The Australian Government requires all major construction matters to proceed through what is known as a “Two-Pass” process. Under this process, the First Pass involves preparation of a scoping study for future post entry quarantine arrangements. More detailed analysis and planning requirements (such as specific facility design issues) will be addressed in the Second Pass.

The Two-Pass process provides a number of points at which industry can provide input on its views about future post entry requirements, including matters such as likely future import volumes, expected import pathways, and factors which would cause changes to import patterns. As each of these points in the development of the business cases approaches, industry will be advised of the issues that are likely to arise.

The views of industry will be taken into consideration as part of this process, which will ensure that the future arrangements for post-entry quarantine facilities will protect Australian industry from exotic pests and diseases, while allowing access to new genetic material.

I would greatly appreciate you providing your organization’s contact details for consultation on planning for future post entry quarantine arrangements. Please provide this information to Greg Fullam, who can be contacted at [greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au](mailto:greg.fullam@aqis.gov.au) or (02) 6272 5333.

Yours sincerely

Craig Burns  
Acting Deputy Secretary  
Biosecurity Services Group

November 2009

## Progress continues on reforms to strengthen Australia's biosecurity

**23 September 2009**

DAFF09/325B

The Rudd Government continues to make progress on reforming Australia's biosecurity system, following the detailed recommendations of the Beale Review.

Work is set to begin on planning for a comprehensive biosecurity IT upgrade to replace outdated systems, most of which are more than a decade old.

The technology is increasingly unreliable and involves 75 different systems which need to be streamlined to reduce the potential impact on trade if systems fail.

The Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry has advised that a failure in the current inefficient clearance system would halt quarantine processing of trade within days.

The Government will also examine the current network of quarantine facilities for plants and animals entering Australia, to better plan for future needs.

Leases for the current five sites expire in 2015 and a number can't be renewed, meaning work must begin now to look at alternatives and ensure we maintain a rigorous biosecurity system.

The measures are another step forward in the long process of responding to the findings of the Beale Review, in consultation with other states and industry.

Detailed drafting of new legislation to replace the century-old Quarantine Act is continuing.

And interim arrangements which took effect on 1 July this year, in-line with the recommendations of the Beale Review, remain in place, including:

- Dr Kevin Dunn appointed as interim Inspector General of Biosecurity;
- the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry's biosecurity functions consolidated into a new one-stop-shop, integrating AQIS, Biosecurity Australia and other areas in a Biosecurity Services Group; and
- former ABARE Chief Economist Mr Roger Rose has joined the Eminent Scientists Group which is responsible for reviewing the import risk analyses conducted by Biosecurity Australia.

A Biosecurity Advisory Council is expected to be established later this year as the key source of independent biosecurity advice to the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Consistent with the Beale report, the Government has also moved from the previous system of Increased Quarantine Intervention, with inflexible targets, to a genuine risk management system and has maintained the National Sentinel Hive Program.

On-going work on the planned IT upgrade, the network of quarantine facilities, legislation drafting and maintaining interim arrangements will be supported with \$14.7 million from within the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry budget.

The Beale Review report made 84 recommendations, which the Government accepted in-principle.

It followed the Callinan Inquiry into the 2007 outbreak of equine influenza. The Government is on-track or ahead of schedule on implementing the 38 Callinan Report recommendations.

## Attachment C

### **Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements: Consultation Process**

From July to September 2010 AQIS is planning to hold three major consultation forums for each broad industry group. The three phases of consultation will include:

#### 1. First Stakeholder Briefing

At this series of meetings, AQIS will familiarise stakeholders with the process being used to develop options, and the details of the consultation process. AQIS will identify areas where industry input is particularly opportune and important, and provide information to help stakeholders participate effectively in the process, especially in relation to the preparation or consideration of issues that may be required prior to the Functional Design Brief Workshop.

#### 2. Functional Design Brief Workshop

AQIS will then hold a series of Functional Design Brief workshops to seek industry input to the development of plans for each potential post entry quarantine facility. These workshops will consider a range of design questions, including key aspects of the technical design of the facilities, and the engineering and site infrastructure required for each type of facility.

#### 3. Second Stakeholder Briefing

Following on from the Functional Design Brief workshop, AQIS will provide a further briefing for stakeholders to:

- summarise the suggestions provided by industry and stakeholders;
- explain how these ideas and technical suggestions have helped to inform the advice that will be presented to Government; and
- provide an update on the overall progress with the scoping study work.

Throughout this consultation process, AQIS will be seeking stakeholder and industry input on suggestions for future post entry quarantine arrangements, including:

- stakeholder views on appropriate future post entry quarantine arrangements;
- information on likely future import volumes and pathways; and
- information relating to the major factors that may cause changes to import patterns.

## **Attachment D**

### **Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements: Two Pass process**

The Australian Government requires that all Commonwealth construction projects over \$15 million follow a Two Stage budget approval process. The First Pass is the submission of an outline business case seeking Governments in-principle agreement to the business need, and approval to develop the project further for consideration by Government. This First Pass has now been completed, with the 2010 Budget announcing that scoping work for future post entry quarantine arrangements would continue during 2010 – 2011.

The Second Pass process, which is now underway, involves the submission of a detailed business case to provide Government with information on a range of alternative options for future post entry quarantine arrangements. This will include whole of life costings regarding all potential options and a functional design brief for potential facilities.

If the proposal is approved by Government, it will then be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for consideration under the *Public Works Committee ACT 1969*. The Public Works Committee may choose to hold a public inquiry on the proposed works and then produce a report of its findings. The report is presented to both Houses of Parliament and, if appropriate, the work is authorised by the House of Representatives passing a resolution that it is expedient to proceed with the construction.

Further information on the Public Works Committee and its processes can be found at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/pwc/index.htm> .