



### **User Requirements Workshops for Future Post Entry Quarantine Arrangements**

I am writing to provide further information about the technical workshops to be held in September to consider the functional design requirements for Australia's future post entry quarantine arrangements.

This follows our earlier advice that workshops would be facilitated by our consultant Bill Ross and Associates to provide stakeholders with the opportunity to discuss the technical requirements for any new facility or facilities. The dates and locations for each user group are as follows:

Date	Location	Sessions		
		9am – 11am	11am – 1pm	2pm – 4pm
17 September 2010	Canberra	Live birds / hatching eggs	Other Animals	Plants
20 September 2010	Sydney	Bees	Cats/ Dogs	Plants
21 September 2010	Brisbane	Plants	All Animals	
22 September 2010	Melbourne	Horses	Cats/ Dogs	Plants
23 September 2010	Perth	Plants	Cats/ Dogs	

We are writing to you at this point so you can make note of the relevant date in your diary. We will be in touch again about the venue for each workshop closer to the actual date.

Each session will take approximately two hours allowing for an extended period of questions and discussion.

Many of you will have attended the earlier AQIS briefings in state capitals in July which were a first opportunity for users to provide input to the process. For the information of those who were not able to attend, the July sessions provided some core background. In particular, it explained that the leases on AQIS's five PEQ stations are expiring between 2010 and 2015. As such, there is the need to consider alternatives and the opportunity to prepare a long-term replacement strategy.

This year's Federal budget provided for scoping work for future post entry quarantine arrangements during 2010 – 2011 including consideration of a range of business and technical options. AQIS is required to provide advice to Government on these options by early 2011.

A more complete explanation of this process is available at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/quarantine/future-post-entry-quarantine-arrangements>.

These sessions also advised attendees that Bill Ross and Associates had been appointed to develop a business case and address the more detailed technical issues related to the development of options for a new facility.

The forthcoming workshops will take the form of a presentation of architectural drawings with varying degrees of detail, and specifically seek your input on:

- layout and design, and
- technical building and structural specifications.

Presentations will be conducted by Bill Ross the project consultant and the team architect, Bill Szydlik.

AQIS has a long history of close cooperation with users and other stakeholders who are directly and indirectly involved in post entry quarantine. We value this cooperation and know that your views, experience and opinions of past use of PEQ facilities are directly relevant to the development of the technical and design brief.

As discussed at the original stakeholder briefings, Bill Ross and AQIS would also appreciate your input on

- operational, business and future facility needs
- import volumes and trends, and
- site/ location requirements.

However, it is not intended to discuss these issues in detail at the forthcoming workshops. Rather, we would prefer that this information is provided by you in writing in a separate submission by 1 October 2010. AQIS has set up an email address to collect those comments - [PeqProject@aqis.gov.au](mailto:PeqProject@aqis.gov.au).

While the issue of site selection will not be canvassed during the upcoming workshops, it might be useful for you to be aware of the site selection criteria which will be used to identify any potential future location.

These require that any site is at least:

- large enough to allow all the final elements to fit on the site/s with space for future growth should it be needed;
- located outside any current or likely biosecurity risk exclusion zone;
- located away from populations of species in quarantine;
- located within easy reach of an international airport;
- located to be geographically appropriate for species in quarantine with minimum requirement to create artificial environments;
- located to have access to appropriate skills and support facilities (access to academic and research institutions and appropriate industry and communities).

Finally, AQIS representatives will not be presenting at these workshops so other issues such as policy matters will not be covered. If these arise in the course of sessions, Bill Ross's team will be happy to refer them to AQIS. However, we want you to make the most of the time available by focusing on layout, design and structural issues on the basis that the current biosecurity requirements and policies are the baseline requirement which the future facility designs should meet.

If you wish to attend the upcoming workshops, please register your interest by 13 September 2010 at [peqproject@aqis.gov.au](mailto:peqproject@aqis.gov.au) or by contacting us on 1800 134 497.

Our website is <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/quarantine/future-post-entry-quarantine-arrangements>, and the presentation delivered during the earlier AQIS briefings is available at <http://www.daff.gov.au/aqis/quarantine/future-post-entry-quarantine-arrangements/presentations>.

Yours sincerely



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