



# SOUTH WEST ENVIRO CENTRE Inc.

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*Managers of Freshwater Creek Wetlands*

Quarantine and Biosecurity Review  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601  
Australia

15 April 2008

Dear Mr. Beale and panel,

The South West Enviro Centre Inc. have been environmental advocates in our region for over fifteen years. S.W.E.C. have stood before the Commission of Inquiry for the Port Botany expansion and have held a leading position against the proposed Enfield Intermodal Logistics Centre at all independent and IHAP inquiries over the past decade or more.

Quarantine issues have always been raised by S.W.E.C. and others, as we believe that our ports and facilities are at the front line in protecting Australia from invasive fauna, flora and diseases, as all ports be them on the coastline or inland have the potential to release detrimental impacts which could jeopardise our reasonable clean bill of health.

The issue of transportation of shipping containers by either road or rail is and has been a major concern for the Australian authorities and environmental groups alike. Two external forms of potential invasion are Asian Bird Flu and the African Giant Land Snail. Both have the potential to create Human and Environmental havoc, if not correctly identified and vigorously pursued.

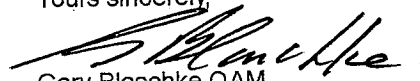
With very few containers being checked for quarantine issues and imported goods increasing every year, except for the authorities who are under staffed and under financed, it has been left to hands on environmental NGO's to alert anyone willing to listen to the threats which will become increasingly alarming in years to come.

When visiting existing intermodals on field trips during inquiries, it is quite apparent that quarantine is not taken as a serious issue by most transport and shipping companies. Antiquated processes that are nothing more than hit or miss, do not protect our shoreline from the imminent threats.

Inland ports create an ever increasing venue for other illegal issues such as drug, weapons and terrorism that greatly impact on the whole of community, not just the immediate region. During the Port Botany Commission of Inquiry the Federal Quarantine authorities raised several of S.W.E.C.'s issues and both organisations found them falling on deaf ears.

Apparently we as a nation have not taken quarantine issues as seriously as we should have. Unless these and many other issues are addressed, we can only look forward to further destruction of our native heritage and health of our communities.

Yours sincerely,

  
Gary Blaschke OAM  
S.W.E.C. President.

COMMUNITY NETWORKING FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT