



PO Box 941
Margaret River
Western Australia
6285

Mr Roger Beale
Chairman
Quarantine and Biosecurity Review
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
GPO Box 858
CANBERRA ACT 2601

26th August 2008

Dear Sir

We understand that the department of Agriculture and Food in WA intend closing the AQIS facility in South Perth and is currently reviewing Quarantine and Biosecurity. Please forward this letter to the appropriate people for consideration in the review despite the deadline for submissions closing.

WAVIA acts on behalf of industry to facilitate the access, production and distribution of improved planting material to the viticulture industry of Western Australia. WAVIA undertakes this by:

- Importing and selecting new varieties and clones required by industry;
- Maintaining the Foundation Collection;
- Establishing Source Blocks in regions; and
- Providing Class A propagation material for industry.

Having the very best genetic material available is fundamental to the future success of the viticultural industries in this state.

The systems in place to import grape propagation material into the state are proven and work well. Minimising the time the process takes and maximizing the success in terms of viability are important considerations to this process. If the WA AQIS facility closes then importation will need to take place via the Eastern States facilities and will double the time for material to go through quarantine in Australia then into Western Australia. This is not a satisfactory situation and will undoubtedly lead some to bypass the system which will jeopardize our industry through pest and disease risk.

Given that WA is free from a number of pests and diseases that it would be logical to have AQIS facilities in both the E States and WA rather than a single or multiple facilities on the east coast. It is clear that if the facilities are removed from WA that industries in this state will be put at a disadvantage. It would be good risk management policy to have facilities with a very wide geographic spread as well.

Yours sincerely

Jim Campbell-Clause
Chairman WAVIA