

Parliamentary Paper
No. 159/1977

The Parliament of the
Commonwealth of Australia

ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION

Wallgrove, N. S. W.

Parliamentary Standing Committee on
Public Works

(Seventh Report of 1977)

*Brought up and ordered to be
printed 24 August 1977*

The Commonwealth Government Printer
Canberra 1978

MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
WORKS

(TWENTY-FOURTH COMMITTEE)

HON. CHARLES ROBERT KELLY, M.P. (Chairman)
LEONARD KEITH JOHNSON, ESQ., M.P. (Vice—Chairman)

Senate
SENATOR BERNARD FRANCIS KILGARRIFF
SENATOR JEAN ISABEL MELZER
SENATOR HAROLD WILLIAM YOUNG

House of Representatives
MELVILLE HAROLD BUNGEY, ESQ., M.P.
ALBERT WILLIAM JAMES, ESQ., M.P.
JAMES LESLIE MCMAHON, ESQ., M.P.
PERCIVAL CLARENCE MILLAR, ESQ., M.P.

EXTRACT FROM
THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
No. 15, DATED 21 APRIL 1977

16 PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE—REFERENCE OF WORK—ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION, WALLGROVE, N.S.W.: Mr McLeay (Minister for Construction), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Works Committee Act 1969*, the following proposed work be referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report: Construction of a proposed animal quarantine station, Wallgrove, N.S.W.

Mr McLeay presented drawings in connection with the proposed work.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

CONTENTS

	Paragraph
The Reference	1
The Committee's Investigation	4
Background—Animal Quarantine	
Role of Commonwealth	7
Development of Quarantine	8
Animal Imports	11
Length of Time in Quarantine	12
Animal Quarantine Stations	13
Off-Shore High Security Animal Quarantine Station	14
The Future for Animal Quarantine	15
Committee's Conclusion	20
The Need	
Abbotsford Quarantine Station	22
Unsuitability of Existing Facilities	25
Modern Animal Care	32
Committee's Conclusion	34
Local Objections to the Continued Operation of the Abbotsford Station	35
Committee's Conclusion	37
The Proposal	
Planning	38
Committee's Conclusion	42
Site	43
Committee's Conclusion	44
Proposed Facilities	45
Quarantine Security Area Buildings	46
Horse Stables	47
Dog Kennels	48
Cattery	49
Small Animal Surgery	50
Small Animal Food Preparation Facility	51
Horse Grooms' Accommodation	52
Committee's Recommendation	55
Station Staff Amenities Building	56
Vehicle Washdown Area	57
Security Fencing	58
Service Buildings	59
Incinerator and Manure Pit	60
Committee's Recommendation	61
Administration and Reception Building	63
Staff Housing	64
Committee's Conclusion	65
Construction	
Structure	66
Foundations	67
External Finishes	68
Internal Finishes	69
Fittings	70
Mechanical Services	71
Electrical Services	72
Fire Protection	73
Civil Engineering	74
Water Supply and Sewerage	75
Landscaping	76
Committee's Conclusion	77
Environmental Impact	78
Consultations with other Authorities	79

	Paragraph
Staffing	80
Bee Imports	82
Committee's Conclusion	85
Animal Quarantine Charges	86
Committee's Conclusion	87
Future Development	88
Estimate of Cost	89
Program	90
Recommendations and Conclusions	91
View from North-East Corner of Site	
Site Plan	

WITNESSES

- Clayton, R. S. , Esq., President, Werriwa All Breeds Dog Training Club, 3 Dawes Street, Mt Pritchard, New South Wales
- Cotton, W. G. , Esq., President, New South Wales Division of the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd, 57 Wood Street, Manly, New South Wales
- Dickens, R. K. , Esq., Veterinary Surgeon and Practitioner, Australian Veterinary Association Ltd, 'Hillside', Blacktown Road, Blacktown, New South Wales
- Evans, Dr. C. P. , Deputy Director-General, Department of Health, Furzer Street, Phillip, Australian Capital Territory
- Hall, R. A. , Esq., Veterinary Surgeon, New South Wales Division of the Australian Veterinary Association Ltd, 2 Denison Street, Hornsby, New South Wales
- Hooper, E. J. , Esq., Engineer/Planner, Drummoyne Municipal Council, P. O. Box 117, Drummoyne, New South Wales
- Lane, L. W. , Esq., First Assistant Director-General, Management Services Division, Department of Health, Furzer Street, Phillip, Australian Capital Territory
- McIntyre, C. W. , Esq., Secretary, The Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Associations, Honey Corporation Building, Forester Road, St Marys, New South Wales
- Oastler, R. B. , Esq., Project Manager, Department of Construction, Tower Building, Australia Square, Sydney, New South Wales
- Rice, N. V. , Esq., P.O. Box 95 Beaudesert, Queensland
- Roxburgh, R.D., Associate Director, Department of Construction, Tower Building, Australia Square, Sydney, New South Wales.
- Scanlan, M. A. , Esq., Assistant Secretary, Medical and Scientific, Department of Construction, Yarra Street, Hawthorn, Victoria
- Searle, R. H. , Esq., First Assistant Director-General, Quarantine Division, Department of Health, Southlands Building, Mawson Shopping Centre, Mawson, Australian Capital Territory
- Shanks, R. J. , Esq., Governing Member, Werriwa All Breeds Dog Training Club, 45 Devlin Street, Ashcroft, New South Wales
- Taylor, W. D. , Esq., Vice-President, Commercial Apiarists' Association of New South Wales and President, Sydney Metropolitan Branch of the Commercial Apiarists' Association of New South Wales, 125 Gladstone Street, Cabramatta, New South Wales
- When, Miss G. , Commercial Apiarists' Association of New South Wales, Sydney Branch, P. O. Box 44, St Ives, New South Wales

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works

ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION WALLGROVE, N. S. W.

REPORT

By resolution on 21 April 1977 the House of Representatives referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works for investigation and report to the Parliament the proposal to construct an Animal Quarantine Station at Wallgrove, N.S.W.

The Committee has the honour to report as follows:

THE REFERENCE

1. The proposal submitted to the Committee is for the construction of an Animal Quarantine Station on Commonwealth Government land at Wallgrove, 35 km from the Sydney General Post Office, to replace an existing facility at Abbotsford, an inner suburb of Sydney.

2. The station will comprise the following main grouping of buildings; quarantine security area, administrative and public area, service buildings and three staff residences. Accommodation will be provided for 90 horses, 597 dogs and 144 cats.

3. The estimated cost of the work when referred to the Committee was \$4.6 million.

THE COMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION

4. The Committee received written submissions from the Department of Health, Department of Construction, the Drummoyne Municipal Council, the Australian Veterinary Association, the Werriwa All Breeds Dog Training Club, Commercial Apiarists' Association of New South Wales and the Federal Council of Australian Apiarists' Association, and took evidence from their representatives at a public hearing at Blacktown on 9 June 1977.

5. Prior to the public hearing, the Committee inspected the existing Animal Quarantine Station at Abbotsford and the site for the proposed new Animal Quarantine Station.

6. The Committee's proceedings will be printed as Minutes of Evidence.

BACKGROUND — ANIMAL QUARANTINE

7. *Role of Commonwealth* Under Section 51 (ix) of the Constitution, the Commonwealth Government has the responsibility for quarantine functions. In discharging this responsibility, the Department of Health delegates certain operational aspects of animal and plant quarantine to the States. The Quarantine Act has as its objectives, the exclusion of diseases and pests and their control should they enter Australia.

8. *Development of Quarantine* The importation of animals at the turn of the century established the basis for Australia's current economic livestock resources. These animals were imported under quarantine conditions developed in the context of then current veterinary knowledge and practice.

9. Animal quarantine controls have developed since that time in accord with advances in veterinary medicine and technology and the growth of the Australian resources at risk. With the advent and increasing use of air transport particularly over the last decade, quarantine procedures particularly in areas of treatment, testing and post-entry quarantine have been developed markedly.

10. The importance of the animal quarantine service has grown with the increasing need to protect Australia's expanding agricultural production and exports from pests and diseases. The current approach by Australia's animal quarantine service is to seek ways and means by which safe importation of animals and animal products to Australia can be achieved rather than to protect Australia's resources by reliance on total prohibition.

11. *Animal Imports* Under present arrangements, particular animal species are permitted importation from a limited range of countries provided specific quarantine conditions are met. In summary, the present position is as follows:

- (i) cattle and sheep from New Zealand;
- (ii) horses, asses and mules from Great Britain, the Channel Islands, Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and New Zealand;
- (iii) cats and dogs from Great Britain, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Hawaii, Norfolk Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands;
- (iv) species of selected zoological animals.

12. *Length of Time in Quarantine* Horses, dogs and cats imported from New Zealand are not subject to quarantine detention on entry to Australia unless a demonstrable disease risk emerges. The length of time for which animals from other countries are detained varies according to the species of animal, the country of origin and mode of transport.

13. *Animal Quarantine Stations* There is an animal quarantine station located in each capital city except Canberra, Hobart and Darwin. The stations are under the control of the Department of Health which supplies the operating staff and administrative services. Veterinary supervisory staff are provided by State Departments of Agriculture.

14. *Off-Shore High Security Animal Quarantine Station* The Government has agreed to the urgent need for an off-shore high security animal quarantine station. Subject to negotiation of satisfactory terms for the land, the Government has agreed in principle to its construction on West Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands. This decision is in line with the recommendations of the Committee's Fifth Report of 1973. The station's role will be to allow the importation of cattle, sheep and pigs which for quarantine reasons could not be imported safely into Australia through mainland stations. The off-shore station will therefore complement the role of the mainland stations.

15. *The Future for Animal Quarantine* Fortunately, Australia is free of the most important livestock diseases including those communicable between man and animals, e.g. rabies. This situation is maintained by rigid adherence to firm quarantine policies which are appropriate to the realities of the disease risk involved and the resources at risk. Livestock diseases such as foot and mouth disease, blue tongue and rinderpest cause grave production losses in other parts of the world.

16. An essential component of adequate quarantine is the provision of efficient and up-to-date quarantine stations capable of screening livestock imported into Australia for diseases and if necessary for containing infested animals

under conditions of maximum disease safety. Without adequate quarantine facilities, quarantine protection for Australia would be compelled to rely on arbitrary prohibition — a course which is generally unacceptable and which would deny Australia the economic and social benefits which would otherwise accrue.

17. Animal quarantine is increasing rapidly in importance in the Australian context. Developments in veterinary medicine and technology are opening up new avenues by which safe importation into Australia of a range of animals and animal products of economic and social significance to Australia can be achieved. The pace of commercial activity and increasing international travel are increasing the pressure for these avenues to be explored and implemented.

18. With increasing international trade and travel the possibility of an exotic disease introduction has increased. Of particular relevance in this respect is the rapid and apparently inevitable spread of rabies. This disease already has a stranglehold on Asia, the Americas and most of Europe and is rapidly advancing across Western Europe towards the United Kingdom. Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are free of this disease and to date there is no evidence of it in the Pacific Islands. However, such has been the pace of its advance in recent years that its introduction to the United Kingdom and other free areas can now be regarded as extremely likely.

19. The proposal has been developed against this background and with full regard to the need to provide standards of isolation and security in keeping with the increasing level of risk.

20. *Committee's Conclusion* Rigid adherence to quarantine policies is necessary to ensure that Australia is free of many of the livestock diseases which cause grave production losses in other parts of the world.

21. The increasing pace of international trade and travel has underlined the importance of animal quarantine, particularly with regard to keeping Australia rabies free.

THE NEED

22. *Abbotsford Quarantine Station* In 1917-18, the Commonwealth Government established an animal quarantine station at Abbotsford Point overlooking Hen and Chicken Bay on the Parramatta River.

23. Initially some 43 dog kennels, 24 cattle stalls, 10 horse stalls and 2 piggeries were constructed together with yards and buildings

including a cottage for the station manager and grooms' quarters.

24. Currently the station animal accommodation comprises 83 dog kennels, 22 cat cages, 10 horse stables and makeshift facilities for a further 20 horses.

25. *Unsuitability of Existing Facilities* The site comprises some 2.4 hectares of which about half only is suitable for building, the remainder comprising rocky outcrops and ledges and beach areas.

26. The Department of Health has been advised by the Department of Construction that it is not economically feasible to expand facilities on the present site.

27. Although improved and/or replaced over the years, the station buildings no longer meet desired standards for safe quarantine or allow modern methods of animal husbandry and preventive medicine to be carried out.

28. Horses are currently housed in accommodation originally designed for cattle. Risk of injury to valuable animals is increasing because of the unsuitable nature of buildings. The risk increases markedly when large consignments of horses, particularly when a high proportion of stallions are received at the station, because effective segregation cannot always be maintained. The maximum safe limit in any one consignment is 10 stallions and 20 mares which is well below the capacity of modern air freighters.

29. The horse accommodation lacks temperature control and this can create and accentuate dangerous stress effects. No facility of an appropriate standard exists for handling in-foal mares. Facilities for cleaning, handling and feeding of animals are primitive by modern standards. Available space for essential year-round exercising of horses is totally inadequate.

30. Dog kennels, whilst of an adequate design for routine caging of animals, are not secure against the spread of rabies should this ever be introduced.

31. The kennels cannot be economically altered to provide this essential protection. With the spread of rabies throughout most of the world and in recent years Western Europe, continued safe importation of cats and dogs can only be achieved if quarantine accommodation specifically constructed to guard against the threat is available. This can only be achieved by new construction.

32. *Modern Animal Care* The confinement of animals for quarantine purposes requires the application of modern methods of animal care and management. These must prevent the

possible spread of diseases and must be in keeping with the highest standards of veterinary practice. It is expected that animals be comfortably housed and protected from possible cross infection.

33. People importing animals incur a considerable expense and often have strong sentimental attachment to animals, whether household pets or companions or valuable breeding animals. In the latter cases considerable financial commitments are invariable involved.

34. *Committee's Conclusion* The existing facilities at the Abbotsford Quarantine Station no longer meet desired standards for safe quarantine. The restricted nature of the Abbotsford site prevents economic expansion of the facilities. There is a need for a modern animal quarantine station in the Sydney area to replace the existing animal quarantine station.

35. *Local Objections to the Continued Operation of the Abbotsford Station* When established, the site was fairly remote but well located in relation to the port of Sydney through which all animals were imported at that time. The station is now flanked by residential development on two sides. There is no buffer area between it and adjacent houses. Consequently, complaints from householders have been received, mostly about barking dogs for which there is no satisfactory solution. There have also been complaints about excessive nuisance from flies. The possibility of providing acoustic panels between the houses and the closest kennels was investigated by the National Acoustic Laboratories but its recommendations were not proceeded with in view of plans to relocate the station.

36. The local Drummoyne Municipal Council has long considered the station incompatible with its surrounds and has sought its removal and requested that the land be put to a more appropriate use. Council has been informed that there would be no objection to the land being used for recreational or other purposes but that the final decision would be made by the appropriate authority for the overall management of Commonwealth property, namely the Department of Administrative Services.

37. *Committee's Conclusion* The functions of the Abbotsford Quarantine Station are no longer compatible with its residential surroundings.

THE PROPOSAL

38. *Planning* The present policy provides for an animal quarantine station at each mainland capital. The policy recognises international transport patterns and the need for an adequate

range of quarantine services at each major point of entry into Australia. The policy also facilitates co-ordination with the access to State Animal Health Services as required. Nevertheless, it is desirable in the interests of efficiency and economy to rationalise where practicable routine quarantine accommodation requirements for particular species across various locations. Further it is essential to have one major station of adequate capacity to:

- meet any foreseeable emergency, e.g. should a consignment be infected or suspected to be infected with a quarantinable disease, it can be accommodated for isolation, treatment and observation at a single location;
- hold animals consigned to other States for reasons of transport delays or problems at the station of destination such as disease epidemic (not necessarily quarantinable), rebuilding, or a temporary shortage of accommodation;
- provide sufficient overall accommodation to meet foreseeable demands without a waiting period. This is important to reduce the incentive to smuggle small animals into Australia;
- provide short notice accommodation for bulk shipments of animals which because of sudden changes in transport patterns, cannot be sent on to State stations without trans-shipment by internal air or surface transport;
- provide buffer accommodation against future changes in quarantine policy made possible by developing technology.

39. It is proposed that the Wallgrove Station should fulfill these functions because it is close to Sydney which is, statistically the largest sea and air port of entry of animals to Australia.

40. The concept of the station design is that each group of animals imported should be kept in quarantine as one unit on the basis that if disease is detected or suspected it must be assumed to affect all the animals in the group. Treatment and observation is facilitated under this arrangement and the effects of the outbreak can be contained.

41. The planning criteria outlined above has the full support of the individual State Departments of Agriculture. Officers of the Animal Quarantine Service of the New South Wales State Department of Agriculture have been involved in all aspects of the planning of the Wallgrove proposal.

42. *Committee's Conclusion* The Committee agrees that there should be a major animal

quarantine station in the Sydney area which is the largest port of entry for animals to Australia.

43. *Site* The station is to be located on the northern portion of unused Commonwealth Government land at Wallgrove, formerly the Wallgrove Army Camp, 55 kms by road from Sydney Airport. An area of 22.37 hectares has been chosen to provide ample room for the current proposal and likely future development and provide an adequate buffer against any possible future closer development in the area. The transport of animals to the station can be accommodated without disease risk to Australian livestock and with a minimum risk of injury to the animals being transported.

44. *Committee's Conclusion* The site selected is suitable.

45. *Proposed Facilities* The station will comprise the following main groupings of buildings:

- quarantine security area;
- service buildings, site services and site development;
- administrative and public area;
- staff housing.

46. *Quarantine Security Area Buildings* Most of the buildings will be located in this area to ensure maximum security against escape of animals, unauthorised access to animals and to maintain at all times effective isolation of animals from each other to minimise the risk of cross infection. Individual buildings will consist of the following.

47. *Horse Stables* A total of 90 stables are to be provided in six blocks of 15. A separate isolation facility is to be provided to enable closer observation and treatment of horses. A feed store will be provided in each stable block. Two types of exercise yards will be provided adjacent to the stables:

- rectangular yards attached to stables;
- free standing round yards for lunging.

A horse wash area will be provided.

48. *Dog Kennels* A total of 597 kennels will be constructed in 14 blocks of 40 and one block of 37. A typical kennel will comprise a sleeping area and an exercise run. A service room will be provided in each kennel block for grooming, food dispensing and storage of individual dog's equipment, food supplements, etc.

49. *Cattery* Two blocks each of 72 cat cages will be constructed. A typical cage will contain a sleeping board and roof level basking area. Each block will contain a service room for grooming and food dispensing.

50. *Small Animal Surgery* This unit will allow animals to be given surgical and medical

treatments which by their nature cannot be undertaken conveniently or effectively in the kennels and cages.

51. *Small Animal Food Preparation Facility* This unit will handle all food requirements covering both fresh meat and prepared foods. Bulk cooked minced meat will be supplied from here to food dispensing areas in each block where it will be broken down to each animal's requirements. Dietary supplements will be added as necessary.

52. *Horse Grooms' Accommodation* The station will provide accommodation for 8 grooms and a cook (all hired by the Commonwealth on a temporary basis for the period of quarantine) to care for the daily needs of horses (feed, grooming, exercise).

53. The following accommodation was proposed:

- individual room with attached toilet/shower unit;
- kitchen;
- communal dining/lounge room;
- communal laundry.

54. The Committee considers that the standard of accommodation proposed for the horse grooms is over generous when compared to the recently revised Services Scales and Standard of Accommodation entitlements which provide "flat" type accommodation for Other Ranks based on a unit of four persons sharing common amenity facilities. The Committee's Report on the Development of R. A. A. F. Base, Point Cook refers (Third Report of 1977). The Department of Health will re-examine the standard of grooms' accommodation and take into consideration the recent review of Services Accommodation.

55. *Committee's Recommendation* The Department of Health should re-examine the proposed horse grooms' accommodation with a view to providing a less costly solution.

56. *Station Staff Amenities Building* This building will provide dining/rest/change facilities etc. for up to 15 males and 10 females employed on the station.

57. *Vehicle Washdown Area* This area will be used to hose down and disinfect vehicles, trailers etc. used to deliver animals to the station.

58. *Security Fencing* Three grades of security fencing will be erected:

- standard manproof fence enclosing all animal quarantine areas;
- internal man/dogproof fence around the dog and cat accommodation;

- a standard agricultural type fence around the entire site.

59. *Service Buildings* A number of service buildings and facilities will be constructed outside the quarantine secure area and will include:

- bulk feed stores;
- horse bedding store;
- equipment store and workshop;
- fuel storage and flammable store;
- incinerator;
- manure pit.

60. *Incinerator and Manure Pit* The Committee expressed concern that the incinerator and manure pit were to be sited outside the quarantine secure area and that there was not segregation of vehicles servicing these facilities and the vehicles supplying the bulk feed stores and the horse bedding store. We were advised that only those facilities directly related to the daily care of animals and/or for health and quarantine reasons, should be located within the quarantine secure area. The Department of Health does not consider that the incinerator and manure pit are required to be within the quarantine secure area. However, in view of evidence that horse manure will be kept until release of horses from quarantine; that the incinerator is to incinerate dog and cat faeces and be used to destroy dead animals, the Department should reconsider the matter of security fencing around the manure pit and incinerator.

61. *Committee's Recommendation* Further consideration should be given to the siting of the manure pit and incinerator within the quarantine secure area.

62. The internal roads should be planned to ensure segregation of vehicles servicing the manure pit and incinerator and the vehicles supplying the bulk feed store and bedding store.

63. *Administration and Reception Building* An office and reception building will be constructed at the entrance to the quarantine security area and will include:

- offices for veterinary officer-in-charge and station manager;
- meeting room;
- general office and public area.

64. *Staff Housing* Two three-bedroom and one four-bedroom houses are to be constructed outside the quarantine security area. The houses will be built to current approved government standards. Three houses are considered to be the minimum to accommodate the necessary staff for effective supervision of animals and efficient operation of the station at all times.

Rentals will be in accordance with standard government scales.

65. *Committee's Conclusion* The proposed facilities will allow the application of modern methods of animal care and management.

CONSTRUCTION

66. *Structure* The proposed buildings will be generally brick wall construction with reinforced concrete floor slabs. The roof will be insulated metal trough decking on timber purlins.

67. *Foundations* The foundations will consist generally of reinforced concrete strip footings on raft slabs.

68. *External Finishes* The external walls of all buildings and staff quarters will be brickwork. Windows and louvres will be anodised aluminium and ventilation panels in dog kennels and cattery will be of wire mesh and metal frame. The roof will be covered with insulated galvanised steel decking. Fences surrounding exercise yards etc. will be galvanised iron and wire mesh.

69. *Internal Finishes* Generally, the internal finishes will be selected to minimise maintenance and will be the minimum required to meet the particular requirements for each particular area. Generally the floors will be non-skid concrete, ceramic tiles, quarry tiles, vinyl flooring and carpet. Walls will be hard plaster, face brickwork and ceramic tiles. Ceilings will be plasterboard and fibreboard.

70. *Fittings* Throughout the various buildings in the complex, rooms and other areas will be provided with fittings and furniture adequate for their particular function.

71. *Mechanical Services* Mechanical services are restricted to the provision of chiller rooms for meat storage, air conditioning for horse isolation stables, food preparation and cooking equipment, various hot water units, minor vehicle servicing equipment, comfort air conditioning to the administration offices and air conditioning to the small animal surgery.

72. *Electrical Services* Mains power will be reticulated at 415/240V through underground cables from a supply authority. The lighting throughout the building will be in accordance with S. A. A. Code Recommendations. Power outlets will be provided throughout the various buildings. External lighting to street lighting standard will be provided in the quarantine area around the stables, kennels, cattery and the unloading area. Electric heating will be provided in the kennel area, cattery and grooms' accommodation.

73. *Fire Protection* Fire hydrants, small bore hose reels and hand extinguishers will be provided.

74. *Civil Engineering* Roads and car parking areas will be bitumen surface with concrete kerbs and gutters to limited areas. Car parking spaces have been provided for 40 visitors and 20 staff.

75. *Water Supply and Sewerage* The station will be connected to the adjacent sewerage system. Water will be supplied from the adjacent water mains and reticulated for domestic, fire fighting and garden watering purposes.

76. *Landscaping* As much of the existing tree growth as possible will be retained and supplemented by planting of native plants where necessary to screen buildings, particularly from the expressway to the south.

77. *Committee's Conclusion* The Committee recommends the construction of the work in this reference.

78. *Environmental Impact* The Department of the Environment, Housing and Community Development has advised the Department of Health that having considered the Notice of Intention prepared by the Department of Health a full Environmental Impact Statement was not required.

79. *Consultations with other Authorities* The proposal has been referred to the following authorities who have advised that there is no objection to the proposal:

- New South Wales Planning and Environment Commission;
- New South Wales Department of Main Roads;
- Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board;
- Blacktown Municipal Council.

80. *Staffing* Staff have indicated their acceptance of the location of the new station and it is expected that any additional day labour staff can be recruited from surrounding urban and rural areas. The proposal is seen as providing a worthwhile alternative avenue of employment in these areas.

81. In terms of staff access and amenity the site is 2 km from Rooty Hill Station which is served by fast electric rail link to Sydney. Rooty Hill has a well established suburban type shopping centre. The closest major centre is Blacktown, some 9 km away.

BEE IMPORTS

82. The Committee received evidence from a number of apiarist groups who expressed con-

cern at the lack of bee quarantine facilities in the Wallgrove proposal. They also expressed concern at the effect on the local industry because of the present quarantine arrangements which restrict import of bees from only Canada, the United States of America and New Zealand, thus preventing access to desirable breeding stock from other areas.

83. Australia is free of many of the serious bee diseases such as chalkbrood and of undesirable genetic traits such as the Africanised genes. We were told that to maintain this situation a bee quarantine and breeding centre is urgently required.

84. The Department of Health advised that the proposal as put forward by the apiarists encompasses a wider range of activities than is normally provided in a quarantine facility and would be more in the nature of a Commonwealth commercial operation functioning under strict quarantine control. However, the proposal will be considered in conjunction with a total review of bee importation arrangements.

85. *Committee's Conclusion* A review of existing bee importation arrangements should be undertaken together with an examination of the feasibility of establishing a bee quarantine facility.

ANIMAL QUARANTINE CHARGES

86. The Committee was informed that a new scale of animal quarantine charges is being prepared to reflect present day costs and will recover the total operating costs of animal quarantine stations. At present there is no recovery of capital costs, maintenance of capital works and buildings or interest charges. However, the possibility of recovering all or part of these costs from animal importers is currently being examined by the Department of Health.

87. *Committee's Conclusion* When assessing animal quarantine charges, in addition to the recovery of operational costs, the Committee recommends that consideration should be given to the recovery of some level of the capital costs of animal quarantine stations.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

88. The station has been planned to meet all foreseeable requirements. However, sufficient land exists to allow further development should this ever be required.

ESTIMATE OF COST

89. The estimated cost of the work when referred to the Committee was \$4.6 million made up as follows:

	\$
Building works	2 900 000
Electrical services	130 000
Mechanical services	170 000
Hydraulic services	900 000
Site works including fencing, landscaping etc.	200 000
Roads	300 000
	<u>4 600 000</u>

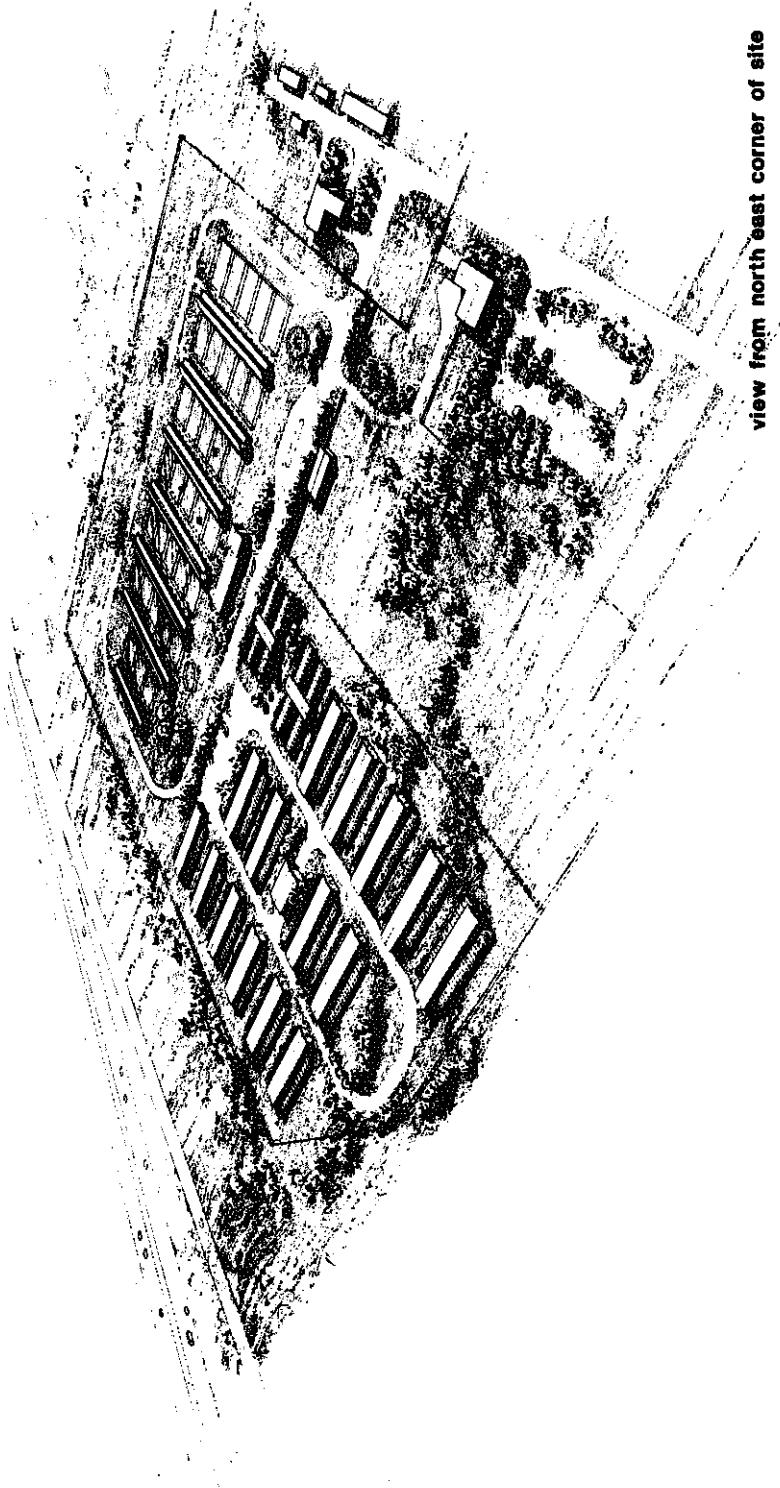
PROGRAM

90. The estimated time for the preparation of contract documents, invitation and analysis of tenders and acceptance of a contract is 26 weeks. Following the acceptance of a contract, construction time is estimated to be 18 months.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

91. The summary of recommendations and conclusions of the Committee is set out below. Alongside each is shown the paragraph in the report to which it refers.

	<i>Paragraph</i>
1. Rigid adherence to quarantine policies is necessary to ensure that Australia is free of many of the livestock diseases which cause grave production losses in other parts of the world.	20
2. The increasing pace of international trade and travel has underlined the importance of animal quarantine particularly with regard to keeping Australia rabies free.	21
3. The existing facilities at the Abbotsford Quarantine Station no longer meet desired standards for safe quarantine.	34
4. The restricted nature of the Abbotsford site prevents economic expansions of the facilities.	34
5. There is a need for a modern animal quarantine station in the Sydney area to replace the existing animal quarantine station.	34
6. The functions of the Abbotsford Quarantine Station are no longer compatible with its residential surroundings.	37
7. The Committee agrees that there should be a major animal quarantine station in the Sydney area which is the largest	



view from north east corner of site

