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New quarantine facility a boost for Territory horticultural industry

The Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries, Dr Chris Burns today opened the Territory’s new Post Entry Quarantine (PEQ) facility for horticultural materials at the Berrimah Research Farm.

Speaking at the launch today, Minister Burns said that since the Commonwealth Government withdrew from maintaining Australia’s PEQ facilities ten years ago, responsibility for running what was then the only PEQ facility based in the tropics transferred to the Territory.

"In fact, the original Territory quarantine facility was one of the very first PEQ facilities to become the responsibility of a State/Territory Government," Dr Burns said.

"Since that time the Department of Business, Industry and Resource Development and the NT Horticulture industry have successfully imported hundreds of plants of tropical fruits, vegetables, cut flowers and other ornamental plants.

"The facility opened here today is not only for use of the members of the horticulture industry but is also available to those interested in forest plants and the general public to allow legal and local access to bring plant materials from overseas destinations.

"This will be a boost for the local horticultural industry, as the new facility will allow the safe importation of plant material and stocks," Dr Burns said.

"Staff from my Department work closely with Commonwealth AQIS staff in assisting the horticulture industry and others to successfully import plant materials and grow them for clearance through the quarantine process.

"This facility will help the further development of local plant industries as well as supporting those who wish to bring in their own collection of plant materials legally."

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