

5 August 2011

Ms Mairead O'Connell
Town Planner (Development Branch)
Camden Council
PO Box 183
CAMDEN NSW 2570

Dear Mairead,

DA660/2011 PLANTBANK - RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please see below our response to your recent request for additional information as set out in your letter dated 3 August 2011.

1. Details of Catering Facilities

The proposal does not include a café, or other such facilities for the preparation and sale of food or drinks to the general public.

The "tearoom" illustrated on drawing number D01 (north-eastern corner of the building's eastern wing) is a staff breakout area and will accommodate basic kitchen facilities for use by staff only. Food for conferences, lectures, meetings and the like to be held within the facility will be prepared by outside caterers off-site and subsequently delivered to the site.

2. *Pimelea spicata*

Staff at the Australian Botanic Garden have contributed to a major survey of *Pimelea spicata* in the region and continue to conserve this species both in situ and ex situ environments.

The NSW Seedbank currently holds over 4,600 species of native plants including four accessions of *Pimelea spicata*. The NSW Seedbank has two small collections (currently stored at -20°C) and the Australian Botanic Garden has two collections growing from cutting material. All four collections have been sourced from the site or from within the Camden Local Government Authority.

The seed collections from the NSW Seedbank will be transferred to the proposed building. The Trust will review cryogenic storage of this and other specimens once PlantBank is operational.

3. Bio-Security Measures

The NSW Seedbank is a partner of the Millennium Seedbank project, a global effort to collect, research and store the world's seed bearing flora, based at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew in the UK. As part of the programme's disaster recovery plan, half of all seed collections held within the Australian Botanic Garden are "banked" at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This has occurred since 2003.

The existing NSW Seedbank is a significant State Government asset but existing facilities comprise temporary agricultural farm sheds with ageing infrastructure, minimal security, and no backup facilities. By way of contrast, PlantBank will provide world-class facilities with a high level of physical protection, including:

- A four hour fire rated vault to protect the valuable seed collections.
- Thermally efficient vault cool rooms will be used to store seeds.
- The vault will be protected behind two layers of electronic security.
- Only trained and authorised personnel will have access to the collections.

The Australian Botanic Garden is developing a Collection Management Policy which will provide a policy framework for the management of the collection from planning and acquisition through to access and utilisation.

The NSW Seedbank focus is on Australian plant species with an emphasis on NSW flora. Should this focus change the Trust would liaise with the Australian Quarantine Inspection Service and Biosecurity Australia to ensure adequate containment, emergency and risk mitigation measures are in put place.

I trust that the above information satisfactorily addresses Council's requirements and that assessment of the development application can proceed. If you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact me on ph 8233 9963.

Yours sincerely,



Norelle Jones
Senior Planner - Planning & Design