



January 2026

Fast-Track Trial for Horticulture RFP Assessments 12 January-24 April 2026

What is the Fast-track trial?

The department is trialing an expedited assessment service for horticulture export consignments. This responds to feedback from the horticulture industry that standard timeframes for request for permit (RFP) assessments (1 day for air freight, 3 days for sea freight) do not always meet industry's operational needs.

Trial details

- Dates: 12 January – 24 April 2026
- Operating hours: 5:30am–5:30pm AEST (6:30am–6:30pm AEDT), Monday–Friday
- Goal: Action horticulture RFPs faster than standard service times (1 day air / 3 days sea)
- Commodities covered: All horticulture commodities excluding cherries as there are separate arrangements in place for cherries.

How to access the trial

- 1) Lodge your RFP through the usual process.
- 2) One request per RFP is required
- 3) Send an email to PlantExportsNDH@aff.gov.au:
 - a) Subject: Client Query – Fast-track trial request – RFP – Loading cut-off date and time
 - b) Body: Copy the Fast-Track Request Template (available via autoreply from 9 January 2026).

Note: If your RFP is rejected and needs to be submitted again, you must send a new request for Fast-track service as per the instructions above.

The Fast-Track Request Template is included below for reference. Please note as this is a trial, the booking request form may require updating based on feedback received.

Fast-Track Request Template

Exporter	RFP	Cut-off date	Cut-off time (AEST)	Transport mode	Vessel/ Aircraft ID and name	Date of Departure	Reason for Request
		Click or tap to enter a date.	Click or tap to enter a date.			Click or tap to enter a date.	Choose an item.

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There are 'drop-down' menus for cut-off date, transport mode, date of departure and reason for request. The reason for request list comprises:

- AO inspection delay
- treatment turnaround timeframe
- DAFF delay (program updating EXDOC code etc)
- vessel/ airline cut-off
- EDN clearance required
- clearance required prior to vessel arrival
- clearance required prior to delivery to port/ airport
- other (provide further information in the email body).

Important notes

- Continue to submit RFPs for assessment at the earliest opportunity to avoid delays.
- Ensure your RFP is complete and correct prior to submitting.
- Where RFP assessment is needed outside of 6.30am to 6.30pm (AEDT) please book overtime as per usual processes.
- Where the fast-track service is not needed, please follow normal procedures, and the usual service standards will apply.
- Data will be collected during the trial will inform future service decisions.

More information

Industry advice notice (IAN): [2026-01: Plant Exports – Request for permit \(RFP\) assessments service options for horticulture commodities for the period 12 January – 24 April 2026](#)

Email: PlantExportsNDH@aff.gov.au

Phone (urgent out-of-hours): 03 8317 8310

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia's agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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