

FED: Canberra opens state-of-the-art 'plant hotel'

CANBERRA, Sept 17 AAP - It's an \$18 million state-of-the-art hotel with the most advanced facilities in the world.

It's just opened for business - only, you're not welcome.

The CSIRO has officially opened its "plant hotel" in Canberra, which will be home to thousands of plants, trees, ferns and grasses as scientists develop ways to deliver healthier foods, better crops and more sustainable growing methods.

The high-tech Australian Plant Phenomics Facility will keep Australia at the forefront of research into the metabolism and physiological process within plants, the CSIRO said.

Scientists will explore how plant genes affect function, while food and fuel crops will also be examined.

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