

Summary of Recommendations

Recommendation 1

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That all rural communities impact statements be assessed by the Regional Communities Consultative Council before being included in any Cabinet proposal.

Recommendation 2

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That the Department explore with other agencies innovative ways by which the residential facilities at the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture can be reopened, recognising that residential facilities are essential for isolated students, indigenous students and farmers who may attend short courses at the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture.

Recommendation 3

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That the Departmental working party examining the future of the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture infrastructure develop a strategy for use of the residential facilities in consultation with the local community.

Recommendation 4

Page 35

That the residential facilities remain intact and functional until such time as the working party examining the future of the College has completed its deliberations and reported.

Recommendation 5

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That the Government recognise the uniqueness and importance of agricultural education in New South Wales and continue to provide adequate financial human and capital resources to Murrumbidgee College of Agricultural, Yanco and CB Alexander Agricultural College, Tocal.

Recommendation 6

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That the Minister, in conjunction with the advisory councils of the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture and Tocal colleges, continue to seek improvement of courses offered at the Colleges and effectively market these courses, to ensure both colleges remain centres of excellence in agricultural education.