

**Submission
No 22**

SUPPORT FOR START-UPS IN REGIONAL NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr John McNaughton

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I am a Registered Surveyor who has prepared many Development Applications for Land Subdivisions, Rural and Regional Industrial Developments over the past thirty or more years.

It is also relevant to note that I was the Lord Mayor of Newcastle from 1986 to 1995 and the President of the Hunter Regional Association of Councils (now Hunter Councils) from 1991 to 1995.

I have been associated with Mr Marc Aussie-Stone for over thirty years and have prepared Development Applications for his projects.

The great advantage of his Rural Tourism Developments is that they are to be replicated throughout Rural New South Wales and will bring much needed jobs to rural and regional areas of New South Wales.

The population of Australia is concentrated in the Capital Cities and surrounds with about nineteen (19) million of our citizens concentrated there and only about four (4) million in rural and regional Australia.

The nineteen million city dwellers are the ideal market for Rural and Regional Tourism because there is a great attraction to visit and learn about Australia outside our Capital Cities.

Also, there is an enormous international market who are interested in visiting rural Australia.

The opportunities are very great and the benefits to rural Australia employment generation and economic activity should be grasped as an opportunity which cannot be ignored.

Over the years there have been many offers of financial support for "start-up" businesses in Regional areas, but they have all required the initial capital to be supplied by the proponent.

This is not possible because the money available to the proponents is taken up in developing the business structure.

If the State Government is interested, genuinely, in commencing a major employment generating industry in rural New South Wales, it should avail itself of this opportunity -and fund "start-up" projects in rural areas.

Also, the State Government should use its good offices with the Federal Government to support, financially, these projects.

The employment generated is not part time seasonal work, but full time occupation for our rural populations.

I wish you well in your present initiative and will speak with you at an interview if require such contact.

Dr John McNaughton AM

20 July 2017