

**Submission
No 13**

**SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Organisation: Lockhart Shire Council

Date Received: 4 November 2019



Lockhart Shire Council

File Ref: PV:LA: A30-005

O:\2019-20\General Manager\A30-005 Agricultural Matters\Ltr 20191104 The Hon Justin Clancy MP, Parliament House, Inquiry into Support for Drought Affected Communities in NSW.docx

4 November 2019

By Email: investmentindustry@parliament.nsw.gov.au

The Hon. Justin Clancy MP
Chairperson
Legislative Assembly Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional
Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir

**RE: INQUIRY INTO SUPPORT FOR DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN
NSW**

Lockhart Shire Council appreciates the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the Committee on Investment, Industry and Regional Development's inquiry into support for drought affected communities in NSW.

Council noted the Inquiry's terms of reference, and in particular the terms of reference relating to the preparedness for future drought events and the assessment of current Government programs.

In this regard Council submits that, in order to mitigate the impacts of future droughts, government grant programs aimed at promoting regional economic development should provide greater assistance to the establishment of drought proof industries, including to companies demonstrating the latest in technology.

By way of example Council is currently in discussions with a potential investor looking to establish an intensive horticulture industry in the Shire. Using the latest technology, the proposal involves the growing of lettuces and other green vegetables and herbs in containerised climate-controlled conditions all year round.

The proposal is dependent on another innovative demonstration project proceeding. This project aims to make the town of Lockhart 100% self-sufficient on locally generated renewable energy providing lower power prices as well as enhancing energy security and community resilience in the process.

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Council understands and appreciates the complexities of providing support to drought affected communities in a fair and equitable way. For this reason, Council submits that providing financial assistance for the establishment of drought proof industries and related innovative projects during non-drought periods, should form part of any solution moving forward.

Once again, the opportunity to make a submission is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Mayor.

Rodger Schirmer
MAYOR