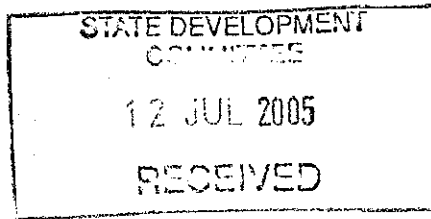
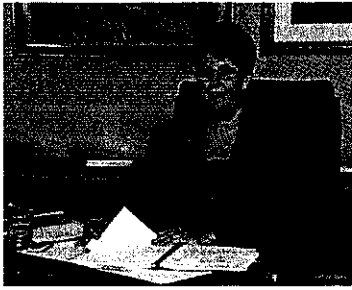


INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

Organisation: Baulkham Hills Shire Council
Name: Mayor Sonya Phillips
Position: Councillor
Telephone: 02 9843 0555
Date Received: 12/07/2005

Theme:

Summary



Office of
the Mayor



06 July 2005

The Hon Tony Catanzariti MLC
Chair
Standing Committee on State Developments
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Our Ref: 6351215

Dear Mr Catanzariti

INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to lodge a submission in connection with your inquiry into skills shortages in rural and regional NSW. Whilst it is acknowledged that your inquiry focuses on rural and regional NSW and Baulkham Hills Shire Council can be regarded as part of the metropolitan area of Sydney, there are still a number of issues which would be common to both the metropolitan area and rural/regional areas in terms of skills shortages.

In particular, local government throughout Australia has, for a number of years, suffered a shortage of professional and qualified town planners. It is also acknowledged that regional and rural areas of NSW, particularly those some distance from the Sydney metropolitan area, have specific issues in terms of the implications of isolation in regard to attracting skilled or professional people. However, it would appear that, in regard to the issue of town planners, factors of isolation, remoteness, distance from Sydney, etc., are not the only factors affecting the shortage.

It is also felt that, generally speaking, the issue of remuneration is not a significant factor in the skills shortage of professional town planners. As a result of the shortage for a number of years, remuneration levels have increased in an effort to attract these professionals.



2.

There would appear to be two major issues which impact on this shortage. Firstly, tertiary institutions perhaps do not devote sufficient resources or make sufficient opportunities available in terms of tertiary courses and qualifications in town planning. Secondly, perhaps the development industry in general, including local government, could work more collaboratively together to promote the advantages of a town planning career.

However, in terms of your inquiry, it would be interesting for your Committee to compare the comments received from other local government areas, in particular rural areas, in regard to the shortage of town planners. Perhaps your Committee could play a role in encouraging tertiary institutions to devote more resources and effort towards town planning courses and qualifications.

As acknowledged earlier in this submission, your inquiry is focused towards rural and regional NSW but I trust that you find my comments in regard to the shortage of town planners relevant and of assistance.

If additional information is required, or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me on (02) 9843 0102.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sonya Phillips', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Councillor Sonya Phillips
MAYOR