

## **INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW**

**Organisation:** Goulburn Mulwaree Council  
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**Date Received:** 27/07/2005

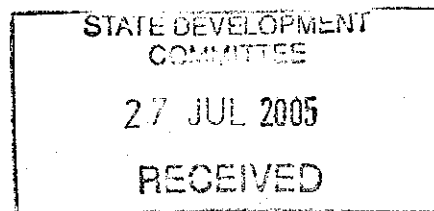
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**Theme:**  
Contact: Peter Quinn

**Summary**



Contact : Peter Quinn  
Reference: PQ:FT



22 July 2005

The Director  
Standing Committee on State Development  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2580

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Skills shortages in Rural and Regional NSW**

I refer to the above matter and provide the following information for your consideration.

Council has, on a number of occasions experienced considerable difficulties attracting staff in the professional ranks especially Engineers, Health and Building Surveyors and to a lesser extent Town Planners.

The reason behind this fact may be many but the following assumptions are made:

- *Lack of professional staff generally in NSW and in particularly in the Local Government arena.*
- *Professional staff unwilling to relocate to regional NSW with more attractive opportunities available in coastal areas for example.*
- *Competing with proximity to capital cities e.g. Canberra, where salaries are higher.*
- *Local Government may have lost its attractiveness to potential staff as a career choice due to lack of promotion within Schools and Universities.*
- *A shortage of younger people going to University to study these disciplines.*
- *The "rural lifestyle" or the perception of a rural lifestyle may not suit some people.*

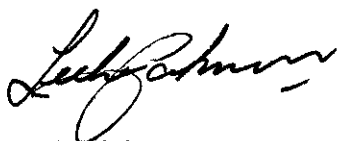
*Suggested initiatives may include:*

- *Subsidised study (scholarships) at University level through a Federal/State/Local Government initiative program with a return of service provision as a consequence.*
- *Department of Local Government and Councils be required as an industry initiative to train young people in at least one of the above disciplines at University level.*
- *Graduates be required to do practical work experience within rural Councils as opposed to Metropolitan Councils or a combination of both to experience the country lifestyle whilst gaining experience.*

- *A fast tracking scheme to attain Degree qualifications more readily if applied to a Local Government major.*
- *A concerted program of advertising be undertaken by the Local Government Association on the attractiveness of Local Government as a career choice.*

Please contact the undersigned if further details are required.

Yours faithfully

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

Luke Johnson  
**GENERAL MANAGER**