

----- Original Message -----

From: [Chris Rodham](#)

To: gpscno5@parliament.nsw.gov.au

Sent: Tuesday, June 01, 2004 10:29 AM

Subject: murrumbidgee college of agriculture inquiry

Dear Sir,

The closure of Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture was a low act by the current government. With the announcement being made by the media to us we felt as though our sons education was worth nothing.

As primary producers we felt that the education of our son was a high priority, for him to be trained properly to take over the family farm. With the closure of M.C.A this education came to a sudden stop. Tocal did not cater for broadacre farming or irrigation training to which our property works around, so sending our son to Tocal was a waste of time. The next closest college that caters to our needs was Dalby in Qld, however this is a long way from home to send a 16 year old.

With the closure of M.C.A our lives at home were put into turmoil as with the drought continuing keeping him at home was not an option. If the college had been kept open his education in the rural sector would have continued for another 12 months maybe 24 months if the college expanded and included a Diploma in Agriculture. These qualifications then would have set our son up ready to get employment at a higher level.

With M.C.A being a residential college meant that we did not have to be on the road so much. We understand that TAFE cater for some of the same subjects but only under a traineeship, as we live a distant from a TAFE that has these facilities and also you have to have numbers to run classes in this area that is hard.

Without residential colleges such as that at Yanco, N.S.W will become a long way behind the rest of Australia as far as rural education is concerned.

We ask that you help the rural population stay alive. With the regulations put onto rural people of today places like M.C.A are a necessity. There are a lot of towns such as Yanco and Leeton that are dying due to the government closing rural facilities. There are also a lot of people living west of the great divide so help us stand up and be counted.

Thanking You

Jeanette and Chris Rodham

"Glencoin" Uranquinty.

1st June 2004