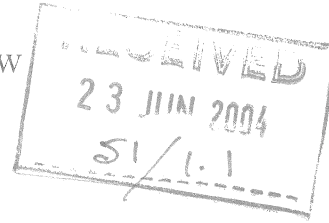




Royal Agricultural Society of NSW



9 June 2004

Mr Ian Cohen MLC
Chairman
Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College
of Agriculture
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Mr Cohen,

**RE: INQUIRY INTO MURRUMBIDGEE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
GENERAL PURPOSE STANDING COMMITTEE NO.5**

The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW notes that Item 1(d) of the Terms of Reference of this Inquiry makes reference to the transfer of Tocal to the Department of Education and Training.

Ten years ago, the Friends of Tocal sought and gained support from both sides of politics in NSW that the interests of the College and its clientele were best served by its operation under the Ministry for Agriculture.

Tocal has carved an important niche and role within the NSW rural and associated community for the delivery of a wide range of agricultural, environmental and related programs. The College is pre-eminent in its delivery of courses and has gained a national and international reputation.

The Friends of Tocal services to support the College in all its endeavours and members and supporters are concerned that the matter of the College's future operation has once again been raised by members of NSW Parliament.

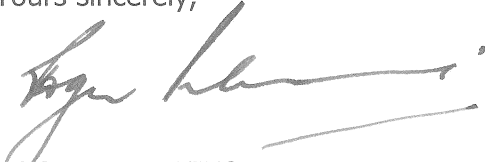
We strongly object to any indication that the future of the College's management and operation would alter from the current arrangements. We believe that the College has been able to develop in a most effective way to service the people of NSW. The College also works in association with the CB Alexander Foundation, Tocal Field Days Association, Hunter Harvest Network Inc., Tocal Ex-Students Association and the Tocal Students Association and many other community organisations to further its objectives. All these organisations strongly support the continuation of Tocal under the administration of the Ministry for Agriculture or more recently, the Ministry for Primary Industries.

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Forging the future of Australian agriculture through competition and education

We therefore seek that the administrative arrangements for Tocal continue in their present form. We also seek that a copy of this letter be provided to each of the Committee members of this Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Perkins', with a horizontal line underneath.

ROGER B PERKINS
Chief Executive