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11 June 2004

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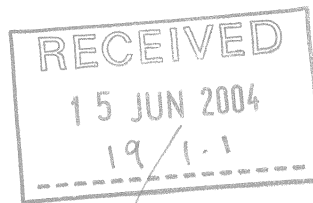
Facsimile Message to

Mr Ian Cohen MLC  
9230 3416

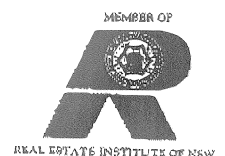
re Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture

Attached hereto is a letter signed by four signatories with regard to Tocal  
Agricultural College.

Would you please acknowledge receipt thereof.



*Service and Integrity since 1954*



(H.J. Sternbeck Llc.) ABN 96 543 491 211

10 June 2004

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Mr Ian Cohen, MLC  
Chair  
Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture  
Parliament House  
Sydney NSW 2000

P.O. Box 231,  
25 Vincent Street,  
CESSNOCK NSW 2325

**PH: (02) 4990 2511**

Dear Mr Cohen

A.H. (02) 4990 2112

Re Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture  
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5

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We are rather proud to be among the many, many Friends of Tocal. Those associated with and those who support Tocal note that Item 1 (d) of the Terms of Reference of this Inquiry make 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 Minister for Agriculture. There is no doubt whatsoever that that is still the case today. Perhaps even more so!

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 serves 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 the 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 CGB 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.

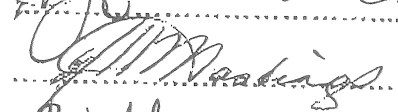
We therefore seek that the administrative arrangements for Tocal continue in their present form. We also seek that a copy of this letter be provided to each of the Committee members of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

HAROLD J STERNBECK, AM

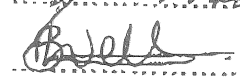


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MEMBER OF



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