



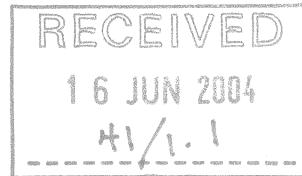
FRIENDS OF
T O C A L

Friends of Tocal Inc.
C/- Paterson Post Office, Paterson, NSW, 2421

Committed to the support and promotion of all activities associated with CB Alexander Agricultural College, 'Tocal,' and Tocal Homestead

8 June 2004

Mr Ian Cohen
Committee Chair
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Legislative Council
Parliament House
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Mr Cohen

Re Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Tocal, a community based organisation which aims to support and further the interests of the CB Alexander Agricultural College, Tocal and Tocal Homestead.

Recently, the establishment of the above Inquiry came to notice, as did the Terms of Reference which include Term 1 (d) requiring the Committee to inquire into and report upon 'the reasons why Murrumbidgee and Tocal Colleges have not been transferred to the Department of Education and Training'.

Tocal College was established as an agricultural college in 1965 pursuant to the terms of the Will of the late CB Alexander. The principle object of the testators will and its consequent endowment of Tocal College was the training of youth in agriculture. The trusts of the will and the assets of deceased gave rise to Tocal College. In 1969 the State Government assumed the responsibility for the College and its development on a scale not otherwise possible. Consequently, Tocal College has become one of the great centres of agricultural practice and education. Tocal College is a major provider of residential, part-time and distance education for the rural and general community of NSW. It has a record second to none and provides a unique range of services. The Terms of Reference 1 (d) raises the issue of the future operation of Tocal College, for it contemplates a transfer of the College to the Department of Education and Training (from the Department of Agriculture which presently has the responsibility as it has done since 1970). Such a course would be to the detriment of Tocal College's future operation and development. It would put at risk the reservoir of knowledge and experience built up within Tocal College and the Department of Agriculture over the past 35 years.

The Friends of Tocal strongly urges the Committee to refrain from taking any measures which will remove Tocal College from the administration of the Department of Agriculture or otherwise detract or dilute the continuing operation of Tocal College in all its present roles.

Yours truly

Brian Alford

Brian Alford
President
Friends of Tocal Inc.

