

INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

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Theme:

Summary

Supplementary submission sent to Hon Tony Catanzariti from Mr Bob Behl.

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The one point that I would like to make in addition to what was in Councils original submission is the need for **appropriate** training to be made available in reasonably accessible locations. Unless that happens, the situation is never going to improve.

Hay Shire Council recently advertised unsuccessfully on several occasions for an engineer. Because we were unable to attract any acceptable qualified applicants we have appointed unqualified people to the positions on the condition that they undertake studies to acquire the required engineering qualifications. The problem that we now encounter is that the most appropriate course for those two particular staff members is offered through a university at **Toowoomba Queensland**.

We are trying to do our part in training up locals to have the necessary skills required in the local government industry but the lack of training courses and facilities makes this extremely difficult. We have a person undertaking training as a health and building surveyor. We employed a trainee to do the same course only to find that whilst training still exists for the building side, the combined health and building training no longer exists.

We are employing a number of trainees and encouraging them to get the skills we need. What we find is that because others are not doing likewise (possibly because of the difficulty in securing the necessary training) our staff are regularly head-hunted.