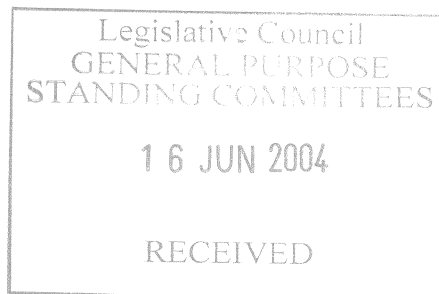


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11 June 2004

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



Dear Mr Cohen

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

I write to make representations concerning this Inquiry and in particular Item 1D on the Terms of Reference which ask, "The reasons why Murrumbidgee and Tocal Colleges have not been transferred to the Department of Education and Training."

When the C B Alexander Presbyterian Agricultural College was handed over to the Government in 1969 by the Presbyterian Church it was then a working agricultural college and was accepted by the then Minister for Agricultural, the Honourable Mr Crawford, on this basis.

Since then it has been run as an agricultural college and managed by the Department of Agricultural. It caters exclusively to the agricultural community and has over 100 full-time students, about 45 part-time students and 550 external students, all of which are in some way related to agricultural.

The College's curriculum is designed to assist the agricultural industry in New South Wales and it also has a worldwide reputation in agricultural. When I say worldwide it is recognised in the United Kingdom, Europe, the United States, China and Asia as well as the other States of the Commonwealth.

'Tocal' as an agricultural college in my respectful submission, should not become a part of the Department of Education and Training as its objectives are quite different from ordinary educational organisations. As I have mentioned before it is entirely related to agricultural education and as such sits more properly under the Department of Agriculture.

As it is, serious funding cuts have been notified to 'Tocal' which will affect its ability to service its students, both full-time and part-time and quite frankly I would suggest that if it is bought under Education and Training further cuts would be likely which would

make it impossible to perform the functions which have been carried out by 'Tocal' as the a primary agricultural education authority in New South Wales.

I would ask the Committee to take these representations on board when undertaking this Inquiry, despite the fact that these submissions will not reach you at the time you have fixed for receiving submissions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Hunt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Hunt
Life Member
C B Alexander Foundation