

**Submission
No 59**

**INQUIRY INTO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
IN CENTRAL WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Year 11 students, Red Bend Catholic College

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Year 11 Red Bend Catholic College Forbes:

Submission to Inquiry into economic and social development in central western New South Wales

On 2 November 2011, a group of Year 11 Legal Studies and Geography students from Red Bend Catholic College, Forbes attended an information session on Parliamentary Committees. The session was run in conjunction with a public hearing, held in Parkes, of the Inquiry into economic and social development in central western NSW. During a group work session the students considered the issues being examined by the Committee, and came up with the following points to be submitted to the Inquiry.

Why should the Government continue to invest in the west of the State? How is the well-being of the Greater and Far West important to the State as a whole?

- The area is rich in resources (mining, agriculture, irrigation) and is a primary supplier of these for the State as a whole. It is a viable location for alternative forms of energy.
- Continued emphasis and investment in the coastal fringe of the State is unsustainable, overcrowding and strain on infrastructure can lead to urban decay
- There are still large communities and a large number of teenagers in the area and they would prefer to stay in the area if they can. The Government should support people/communities in their desire to remain and thrive in the area.

What are the positives about the local area that make it attractive to both locals and to people considering relocating to regional NSW?

- Lower home rental and purchase costs.
- Lower crime rate.
- Less travel time and travel congestion.
- Non-hecktic lifestyle pace gives you time to appreciate the small things.
- At night you can see the stars.
- Attractions such as the Elvis Festival and the Dish.
- Pollution-free environment.
- Community spirit.
- Easy access to a range of natural, outside recreational activities.

What can the Government do to improve the local area to improve it socially and economically, particularly for young people?

- Improve local and major roads. Need a more direct, faster route to Sydney.
- Better health facilities, provide more General Practitioners. Provision of medical training in the area.
- More public transport.
- Improve (broaden) job opportunities.
- More entertainment and social activities for young people.

- Improve sporting and after school youth facilities.
- Address land degradation (salinity in Forbes).
- Increase/create tertiary education facilities in the western area. Young people should not have to leave the area in order to gain qualifications.
- Lower business tax rates (eg payroll tax) for small businesses in the area.
- Improved access to information resources.
- Improve tourism strategies.
- Better drought support for agriculture.