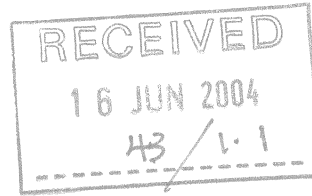


June 8, 2004

Mr Ian Cohen MLC
Chair
Inquiry into Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Parliament House
SYDNEY, 2000



Dear Mr Cohen

I note that Item 1(d) of the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry into the Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture makes reference to the transfer of Tocal to the Department of Education and Training. This was discussed by the NSW parliament ten years ago and bipartisan support was given at that time to the Friends of Tocal Inc and others that the College and its students would be best served by maintaining its operation under the Ministry for Agriculture.

I represent the interests of people from the north coast of NSW as a member of the Tocal Advisory Council. I support the College in all its endeavours and am concerned that the matter of the College's future operation has once again been raised by members of NSW parliament.

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 had gained a national and international reputation.

I strongly object to any indication that the future of the College's management and operation would alter from the current arrangements. I 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 CB Alexander Foundation, Tocal Field Days Association, Hunter Harvest Network Inc, Friends of Tocal 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.

I therefore urge you to maintain the administrative arrangements for Tocal as they are. I also seek that a copy of this letter be provided to each of the committee members of this inquiry.

Yours sincerely

Sandy Brooks JP
Sandy Brooks

