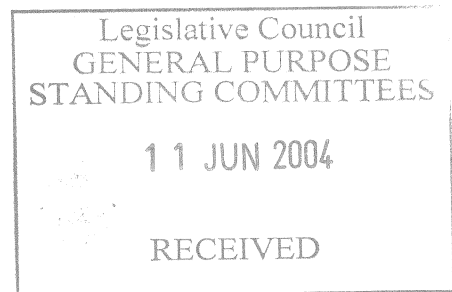
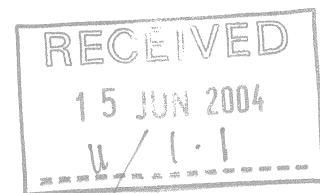


“Braemar”
WEETHALLE NSW 2669

27 May 2004



The Director
General Purpose Standing Committee No 5
Legislative Council, Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir/Madam

My name is John Butler and I am a parent of Claire Butler, a first-year student of Murrumbidgee College of Agriculture, before Mr Ian Macdonald and the Carr Government decided to cease full-time residential courses at the College.

My wife, Louise Butler, and I were devastated when we heard the news and we immediately began thinking what will Claire do in 2004.

I recently attended Certificate Day held on 2 April, at the College, with my daughter where we listened to Mr Archer, newly appointed Principal of the College, speak of putting all the past happenings with the College behind us and that students should be optimistic about the future. As a farmer in a drought I understand about looking into the future but Mr Archer had no remorse for the students who had to cut their education and training short to go out and look for work or relocate to another state to find a suitable training facility.

Mr Ian Macdonald jeopardized my daughter's future, my wife and I sent Claire to MCA believing she could complete Certificate III and IV in Agriculture and then gain entry into Charles Stuart University in Wagga Wagga, and complete a degree in Agricultural Science as her career goal is to be an agronomist.

Mr Macdonald was elected Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries by us and he turns around and makes a ridiculous decision like this, and the Carr Government let him do it. Do they not realise how rich in agriculture the Murrumbidgee Irrigation area is. There was nothing students had to go very far to learn about, from grapes to feedlotting they could find it anywhere in the Riverina district.