

INQUIRY INTO SKILLS SHORTAGES IN RURAL AND REGIONAL NSW

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Date Received: 12/07/2005

Theme:

Summary



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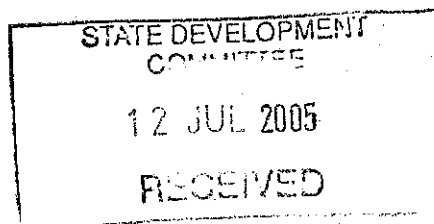
IN YOUR REPLY PLEASE QUOTE

OUR REF.: 25873

CONTACT: PJD:ROD
Mr P. Doyle

7 July, 2005

Mr Tony Catanzariti
Chair
Standing Committee on State Development
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000



Dear Sir,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 June, 2005 informing the Mayor about the Inquiry into Skills Shortages in Rural and Regional NSW. I am only qualified to comment on skill shortages in local government and I can assure you that as an industry, local government recognises that there are serious problems in some disciplines and various committees have been formed to address those shortages.

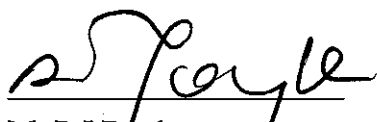
Deregulation of local government in 1993 effectively removed the career path options that were the catalyst for young people to undertake recognised skills development courses through TAFE or university.

Consequently, there is a paucity of Town Planners, Civil Engineers, Rates Clerks and Health and Building Surveyors.

Salaries for these professionals have increased due to market forces and rural and regional NSW councils experience great difficulty matching the remuneration levels city based councils can afford to, and do pay.

Needless to say, rural Councils are having problems attracting suitably qualified and skilled staff and in time, rural and regional communities will suffer.

Yours faithfully


Mr P J Doyle
GENERAL MANAGER

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