

To standing committee on agriculture and industry

I WISH TO COMMENT ON THE BARRIERS TO THE INCREASING OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY AND THE ADOPTION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY

THE MAIN BARRIER IS THE STATE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE PARTICULARLY IN VICTORIA WHERE AGRICULTURE IS THE CORE INDUSTRY OF THE STATE

.A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE THAT INCLUDES AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE , AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS , FARM MANAGEMENT , MARKETING AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING

.SCIENCE WITHOUT BEING MARRIED TO THE OTHER SKILLS WILL LARGELY BE WASTED

IN MY VIEW PARTICULARLY IN VICTORIA WE NEED A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURAL HIGHER EDUCATION BY MERGING THE 2 INEFFECTUAL SCHOOLS AT MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY AND LA TROBE UNIVERSITY INTO ONE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE THAT IS FOCUSSED ON ALL FACITS OF AGRICULTURE AND POSSIBLY A SECOND SCHOOL IN REGIONAL VICTORIA AT FEDERATION UNIVERSITY IN BALLARAT FOR REGIONAL STUDENTS

THAT DON'T WANT TO GO TO A HIGH COST CITY

AT THIS POINT OF TIME I CANT FIND ANYONE TEACHING INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND MARKETING IN AGRICULTURE ,

IN THE MEANTIME LINCOLN IN NEW ZEALAND IS INCREASING ITS RESOURCES IN THIS AREA

THE REST OF THE WORLD LARGELY TEACHES AGRICULTURE IN THE REGIONS

IN OUR BUSINESS WE WORK WITH PRODUCERS IN NEW ZEALAND WHERE ABOUT 24% OF THE RURAL SECTOR HAS TERTIARY TRAINING AND THE USA WHERE ABOUT 40% HAVE TERTIARY TRAINING

MEANWHILE IT IS SUGGESTED THAT WE IN AUSTRALIA HAVE ABOUT 7% WITH TERTIARY TRAINING

I BELIEVE THAT WE HAVE TOO MANY UNDERRESOURCED SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION AND THE COMMITTEE NEEDS TO LOOK AT RATIONALISATION IN THIS SECTOR

. I HAVE JUST RETURNED FROM CHINA WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE VISIONARY CITY OF WARRNAMBOOL TO CHANGCHUN AND THE ASIAN CENTURY IS WELL UNDER WAY AND WILL REQUIRE A MAJOR LIFT IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY IN THE NEXT DECADE

. WARRNAMBOOL'S VISION IS TO INCREASE MILK PRODUCTION IN ITS AREA FROM 2 MILLION LITRES TO 3 MILLION IN 10 YEARS TIME

. THE LIMITING FACTOR WILL BE TRAINED YOUNG PEOPLE,CAPITAL AND RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE TO THE EXPORT PORTS

I WOULD URGE THE COMMITTEE TO REQUEST THE WARRNAMBOOL CITY COUNCIL TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE AS THEIR VISIONARY APPROACH TO DEVELOPING A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP WITH A SIGNIFICANT REGIONAL CITY IN CHANGCHUN IS SOMETHING THAT WILL INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

THE NEW PRIME MINISTER HAS SUGGESTED THAT AUSTRALIA RANKS SECOND LAST IN COMMUNICATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND CENTRES OF HIGHER EDUCATION

I WOULD SUGGEST IN AGRICULTURE WE WOULD BE LAST

IN OUR BUSINESS WE WORK WITH PARTNERS IN THE USA AND NEW ZEALAND AND THE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE CENTRES OF LEARNING AND INDUSTRY SUPERIOR TO OURS

HIGHER EDUCATION IN AGRICULTURE IS A FEDERAL ISSUE AND I URGE THIS COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE FUNDING TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SO THAT ITS LINKED TO REFORM AND CREATING A SMALLER NUMBER OF PROPERLY RESOURCED CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION RANKS HIGHLY IN MY MIND AS WITHIN OUR FAMILY WE HAVE 7 AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES INCLUDING 3 WITH NEW ZEALAND TRAINING

I AM WILLING TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE IF YOU SO WISH

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