



Young Shire Council

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119/JFW:LH

MR JOHN WALKER

4th November, 2002

The Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Migration
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

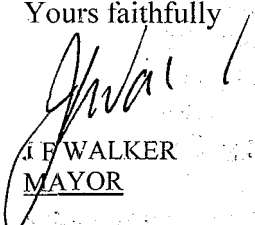
Young Shire Council as part of NSW Southern Special Economic Zone (SSEZ) was established in early 2000 to promote as a single entity, the combined area of Temora, Cootamundra, Boorowa, Harden, Weddin and Young shires as a place for investment by overseas investors with a view to linkages with the Chinese market.

In addition the Zone would investigate and encourage exports to China by existing businesses. While initially developing business relationship with China the SSEZ's activities may not be confined just to China, but to Asia and the world generally.

1. Young Shire has worked hard to make the skilled migration and business migration scheme work, but have not attracted any immigrants. Council believes this is because DIMIA officers do not understand the rural needs and that Immigration policy is designed for the city environment.
2. Young has 80 Afghan Temporary Protection Visa holders employed by Burrangong Meat Processors (BMP). BMP is extremely happy with them as employees and would hope to see them stay. DIMIA has not resolved to negotiate for either permanent residence or for their successful assimilation into this rural environment. This is despite an overwhelming public acceptance.

Council would be happy to discuss these issues with your Joint Standing Committee.

Yours faithfully


J F WALKER
MAYOR