



2 December 2005

Mr Robert Little  
Inquiry Secretary  
House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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**SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION NO. 104**

Dear Robert,

Please find below information as requested by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry regarding the status of beekeeping and farriery.

In 2001 the Rural Training Council of Australia (RTCA) under direction from the Australian National Training Authority (ANTA) conducted scoping workshops to identify new sectors that may possibly be included in the Rural Production Training Package (RTE03). Some fifty (50) new sectors or areas were presented and following consultation with state Industry Training Boards (ITAB's) and industry associations, the 10 sectors below were identified as the high priorities:

- Alpacas
- Beekeeping
- Composting
- Deer
- Emergency diseases
- Mushrooming
- Nutrient management
- Olives
- Organic farming
- Viticulture.

The original intention of RTCA was to include these new sectors as qualifications in the Rural Production Training Package (RTE03) while conducting the review of the Agriculture Package (RUA98). ANTA directed RTCA to complete the review of the Agriculture Training Package (RUA98), and not to include any of the new sectors until after the official endorsement of the reviewed Training Package.

The Rural Production Training Package (RTE03) was endorsed in 2003. The current status of the new sector project is that none of the other units or qualifications have been submitted to the Department of Education, Science



and Training (DEST) for endorsement. Even after two years of consultation they are still being formatted.

Viticulture, one of the original sectors identified as a priority has since been removed from the new sector project because there are concerns and issues around the possible duplication of units within the Food Processing Package. Currently the Food Processing Package contains qualifications at Certificate 1, 2 and 3 levels.

Qualifications do not exist at levels 4, 5 & 6.

Farriery was identified in the initial list of 50 new sectors for scoping work, but failed to make it into the final list after consultation with State ITAB's and the industry. This situation was due to the fact that groups within the industry could not agree, or the other sectors were given a higher priority. RTCA recognised there was a high need for a national Farriery qualification as the only qualification available in Australia was the Victorian State Accredited course. This was due to cease accreditation and needed to be re-written to remain current. RTCA however, was unable to commit to the development of a qualification due to lack of funding. RTCA passed all files and information gathered from the original scoping workshops to the Primary Industries Curriculum Maintenance Manager (PICMM) in Victoria, who has since developed a Victorian accredited course for Farrier's in 2005. Philosophically, this defeats the purpose of Training Packages as being Nationally endorsed.

The complexities and politics associated with the development of the Rural Production Training Package has resulted in sectors such as beekeeping being largely ignored in training package development.

Yours faithfully,



Wayne Pappin  
Head of Department  
AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL SCIENCE  
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