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BY: ATSLA

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Our Ref: RS/KS/124316/CR/85/1  
Your Ref:  
Enquiries: Rob Stewart

8 April 2005

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Affairs  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Cheryl

**Subject: Inquiry into Indigenous Employment**

Thank you for your letter dated 23 March 2005 regarding the above matter.

The Shire of Plantagenet is pleased to continue to work closely with the Department of Indigenous Affairs with regard to the question of indigenous employment.

As recently as today I met with TAFEWA regarding a submission pursuant to the Australians Working Together Scheme.

The four (4) Shires of the Lower Great Southern being the City of Albany and the Shires of Cranbrook, Denmark and Plantagenet have for some time noted the difficulties in attracting qualified plant operators. We are presently working with the Department of Indigenous Affairs and the local Community Action Group to develop a proposal whereby local indigenous people could be trained as plant operators. Although local Councils cannot guarantee employment we do know that if qualified plant operators were within the district they would be immediately employed.

We are still awaiting of outcomes of various submissions and we are hopeful that we will have positive results with relation to local indigenous employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rob Stewart".

**Rob Stewart**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**