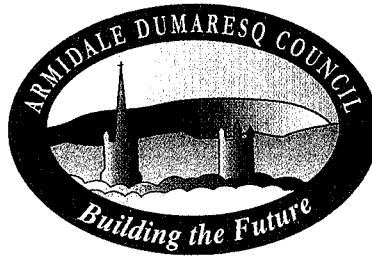


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Armidale Dumaresq Council
PO Box 75A
Armidale NSW 2350

Submission No.	21
Date Received	19-4-05

Your Ref:

Our Ref: SB:AG:A02/0261-5

RECEIVED
19 APR 2005

13 March 2005

BY: ATZIA

Ms Cheryl Scarlett
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA HOUSE ACT 2600

Dear Ms Scarlett

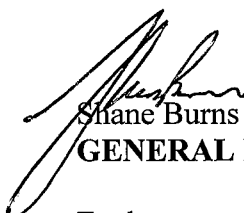
INQUIRY INTO INDIGENOUS EMPLOYMENT

Reference is made to your letter of 23 March 2005 concerning the implementation of practical steps to support and encourage stronger outcomes for indigenous people.

Armidale Dumaresq Council is currently working on a joint project for the establishment of a youth training facility involving 6 organisations currently providing education/training and employment services to disadvantaged, aboriginal, at risk, and unemployed youth. Attached for your information is an outline of the project. This project will support both industry development in the region, as well as providing real employment generating programs to assist youth into the mainstream employment market. Currently funding options are being investigated to ensure this project is realised.

Should you require further information, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,


Shane Burns
GENERAL MANAGER

Encl.

INDIGENOUS YOUTH TRAINING PROJECT

The New England North West viticulture industry education and employment strategy is a joint venture aimed at establishing a training facility for indigenous and unemployed youth in developing/potential industries in the region.

Project Summary

The project will consist of the establishment of a small vineyard and wine making facility for the provision of training in the areas of horticulture, viticulture, cellar door activities, wine making, marketing, and business management. In addition to this, other industries that are to be trialled include cut flowers, culinary herbs, organic food production, bush tucker, indigenous land management, chemical handling, and general farm skills. The opportunity to use the facility as a training centre across a broad range of primary industries should provide participants with skills that can enable year round employment opportunities. Students can progress from basic level courses such as Certificate of Attainment and Certificate II, through to Certificate III, IV and Diploma level, even through to University through the partnering of both TAFE and University in this project. Jobs Australia will provide the employment placement services for participants in the course.

The project is aimed at supporting and further encouraging the development of the viticulture industry in the New England North West region. With 42 viticulturalists and 8 cellardoor in operation, this industry is seen as having the potential to become a major player in the economy of this region in terms of tourism, employment, education and agribusiness. This area is represented by 2 vigneron associations, Southern and Northern New England Vigneron Associations.

The facility must be self sustaining, and an administrative body be established to coordinate and provide administrative services for the organisations using the facility.

Partners:

The following organisations have expressed their commitment to the project:

- **Armidale Dumaresq Council** are providing 70 acres of land and a 33 Mg litre water licence for use by the project on land located at the Sewage Treatment Plant which has not been previously used for the production of pasture using effluent.
- **New England Institute of TAFE** will be providing courses in horticulture across the various projects on the site through its Primary Industries section. The facility will also be used by the Access/FAVE students and Juvenile Justice training coordinator to provide courses at basic level for those students who have already left the traditional school system and are currently unemployed.
- **Western Sydney Institute of TAFE (Orange campus)** will provide the viticulture courses through to the Wine Making Diploma, and will also coordinate the courses in indigenous land management, bush tucker, production horticulture, Chemical use, and basic farm skills courses.

- **University of New England** will assist in the initial establishment of the facility through provision of services for soil testing and site selection, and will use the winemaking facility as part of their Rural Studies degree.
- **Challenge Ltd** will be using the facility as an opportunity to provide clients with broad skills to enable employment in the wider community in a variety of rural industries. They will also be involved in the identification of new industries for the area, and for the organisation of training to suit these new industries for income generation.
- **CDEP** are also keen to identify new opportunities for employment of indigenous youth in rural industries that can be shown to be profitable. They too seek training for youth to enable employment in the broader community.
- **Jobs Australia** will be providing employment services to participants and looking for industry support through employment programs.
- **Southern New England Vignerons Association** will provide industry support and input regarding requirements of the viticulture industry.

A site has been selected for the establishment of amenities and training facilities as well as the construction of the wine making facility. This will also include a "shop"/retail facility where products of the training organisation can be sold/promoted.

Following individual discussions with parties, a meeting was held, chaired by the Project Officer of New England North West Area Consultative Committee, where all parties expressed their keenness to be a part of this new joint facility.

The outcome of this meeting was that Mr Bob Brewster from CDEP, in conjunction with Joanne Stead of NENWACC has developed a grant application for funding to undertake a feasibility/sustainability study with input from all interested parties to establish the ability of the facility to remain as a self funding/sustaining venture.

Following this study, funding will be sought under the Regional Partnerships scheme to enable the establishment of this centre.

The facility would highlight the concept of Armidale as a centre of education excellence and highlight the benefits of partnerships for regional industries and employment.