

① Tabled by Senator Carr
14/2/07 10:45am

Text of letter from John Rolland, Director, External Affairs. 9th September 1992

In reply to my letter 27th August 1992

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter of 27 August 1992. The updated APTCARE document is not yet available. We will be pleased to add your name to the mailing list upon its issue.

If a new research reactor is approved to be sited at the Lucas Heights Research Laboratories site. It is planned that the present HIFAR reactor will be shutdown once the new reactor is routinely in operation. You might note that the remaining useful life of HIFAR and its eventual closure and decommissioning will be one of the areas to be examined by the Inquiry.

HIFAR is one of six similar reactors, three of which have been shutdown. There will be considerable information on their decommissioning for application to HIFAR. No decisions have yet been made in relation to the method of decommissioning HIFAR. However, there are normally three basic stages in decommissioning a reactor as follows:

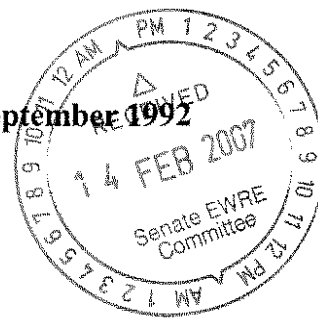
1. Reactor shutdown, removal of spent fuel and other movable radioactive equipment, followed by a period of normal care and maintenance. The longer this care and maintenance period, the lower will be the radiation dose to workers and the cost of the next decommissioning stages.
2. Dismantling and removal of fixed equipment outside the reactor's concrete biological shield. A care and maintenance period of 30 – 50 years as above would allow radioactivity to decay to levels which would remove the need for remotely operated tools.
3. Dismantling and removal of the biological shield and reactor internals after a period of 50 years. This would allow the return of the site for unrestricted use.

The dismantled reactor materials and equipment would be transported to a national repository.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

John Rolland

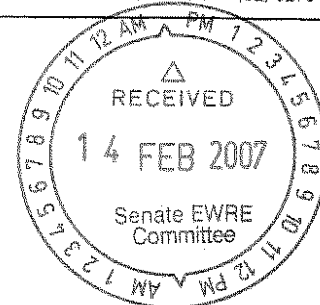


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The Hon **Gary Hardgrave** MP
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Mr John Baker
Chair
Agri-Food Industry Skills Council
PO Box 5450
Kingston ACT 2604

Dear Mr Baker

On 10 November 2006 I announced the Australian Government's strategy for major reform to industry advisory arrangements in the area of vocational and technical education, aimed at increasing the relevance and responsiveness of the national training system.

As part of this announcement, I indicated that existing arrangements would continue to operate for another 15 months subject to your organisation meeting my expectations around reform and continuing to make satisfactory progress against clear milestones which are detailed in the funding agreement. I expect to continue to drive reforms over this period around the following five areas:

- Significant improvement in governance of the advisory structures, by enhancing the leadership role of industry
- Achieving more active engagement with industry organisations and employers
- Ensuring advisory structures focus their efforts on the development of Training Packages
- Setting clear expectations of the Council's activities over the next 15 months, and
- Increasing the transparency of performance management and review.

My letter should be read in conjunction with the funding agreement for the period 1 January 2007 to 31 March 2008 offered by the Australian Government, as represented by the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST).

I will be seeking your quarterly reporting on progress against the five areas noted above. Continued funding under the agreement will be subject to

significant improvement in governance arrangements and performance against these areas by Industry Skills Councils. My expectation is that within the first two months a draft work program will be prepared and considered for approval by the Department which reflects the focus of the new agreement, including strengthened employer engagement with the Training Package development work of Industry Skills Councils.

A clear issue of concern identified in the DEST evaluation was corporate governance, including the size and composition of some Industry Skills Council Boards. Within the first six months, I expect that as a condition of funding, Councils would have implemented changes to governance arrangements that reflect best practice in not-for-profit companies, and that respond to the recommendations in the DEST evaluation report. I expect changes would include: limiting the Board size to a number which will ensure the variety of perspectives necessary, but be in keeping with Australian norms of 6-8 persons; Board membership comprising of a simple majority of employers; and employer representatives being acceptable to the relevant employer association. In order to ensure industry leadership in its operation, your Board should comprise current employers in a relevant industry.

Your organisation should conduct its business openly and I expect increased transparency and accountability in relation to performance reporting and financial operations, including reporting on assets acquired through public funds. The new funding agreement will specify the Australian Government's requirements for financial reporting. I have asked for a full disclosure of all financial transactions by each of the current Industry Skills Councils to ensure that, as the major provider of funds to Industry Skills Councils, there is appropriate transparency and accountability in relation to the use of government funds. I have also asked that there be a requirement in the contract to report on the transfer of assets that occurred in the transition from the previous Industry Training Advisory Boards to Industry Skills Councils.

I have also asked for reporting on each Council's procurement policies and conflict of interest policies. Your organisation will need to demonstrate that:

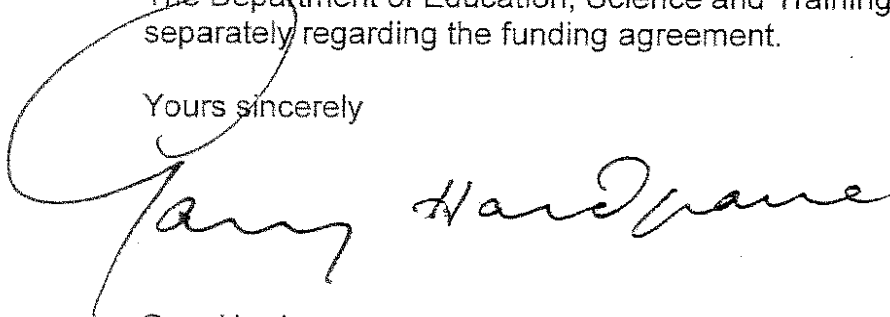
- there are open and transparent supplier arrangements based on the capacity to undertake the work, including clearer reporting requirements around sub-contracting of activities
- the accounts and procedures are structured to ensure that government funding is not used, even indirectly, for other commercial purposes, and
- processes are in place to deal appropriately with any event which any Board member or the executive officer thinks involves a conflict of interest on any issue relating, directly or indirectly, to the allocation or use of public money.

Finally, I am concerned to ensure that the substantial Australian Government support for national industry training advisory arrangements and the organisations that comprise these arrangements is more appropriately acknowledged. The new funding agreement contains important guidance regarding branding and acknowledgement of that investment, including acknowledging the Australian Government contribution to all materials produced under Australian Government funding, and that Industry Skills Councils are an Australian Government initiative.

Under the 15 month funding agreement, all payments and continuation of the agreement will depend on the successful achievement of the performance objectives and my satisfaction with the changes to governance and operational arrangements of the Industry Skills Councils.

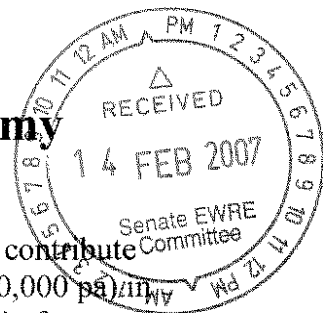
The Department of Education, Science and Training will be in touch with you separately regarding the funding agreement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Hardgrave'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'G'.

Gary Hardgrave

UTAS Contribution to the Tasmanian Economy



UTAS plans to grow from 12,500 EFTSL to 15,000 by 2010 and 20,000 by 2020.

UTAS has grown from 10,000 EFTSL in 2000 to 12,500 EFTSL in 2004.

Planned growth to 2020 will result in an estimated total contribution to GSP by UTAS of \$425m (3%):

- around the same impact of interstate holiday visitors
- about half the total impact of tourism

GSP contribution of other sectors (ABS):

Agric, forestry & fishing	5.7%
Mining	1.3%
Retail trade	6.7%
Construction	6.5%
Finance and insurance	6.5%

Apart from government, UTAS is 3rd largest employer: Woolworths 3500, Coles Myer 3300, UTAS 1800, Federal Hotels 1750, Gunns 1200, Aurora 1100.

ABS Research and Experimental Development 2002/3 show UTAS contributed \$68m (30%) of R&D in Tas, \$62m by business/industry, \$110m Commonwealth.

For every increase of 100 EFTSL UTAS contribution to the economy is:

- \$1.6 m to real GSP – total of \$130m more by 2020
- \$1.9 m to real consumption spending – total of \$138m more by 2020
- 26 new FTE Tasmanian jobs - 800 by 2010, doubling to 1,600 by 2020.

Interstate students will contribute \$6m more by 2010 and \$14m more by 2020.

International students already contribute \$30m pa (1500 students at \$20,000 pa) in living costs and almost \$20m in fees, a total of \$50m. This will increase to:

	Living expenses	Fees	Total
2010	\$63m	\$42m	\$105m
2020	\$78m	\$52m	\$130m

The proportion of Tasmania's population with a Bachelor degree or higher has increased markedly, rising from 11.4% in 2002 to 13.9% in 2004.

Productivity improvement by 2020:

- Increasing graduates and average skill level of the workforce - \$9.9m pa
- Successful R&D outcomes worth \$8.2m pa

Tasmania's population profile between 2001-2004 has seen significant growth in the 20-24 age cohort with an increase of 2,081 or 7.4% - reflecting greater availability of university places, the increasing number and retention of graduates and the improving economy leading to a reduction in interstate migration of this cohort.

Total UTAS budget in 2005 is \$250m rising to \$330m by 2010.

350 Tasmanian suppliers receive payments in excess of \$10,000 each year.

UTAS spends 85% of its budget within Tasmania - \$136m on staff salaries (payroll tax of \$7m) and \$75m for non-salary related expenditure and capital works.