



From: Geoff Stocker [mailto:gstocker@austarnet.com.au]
Sent: Friday, 15 April 2005 1:22 PM
To: FPA, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Stocker's evidence to Finance and Public Administration Reference Committee

Dear Terry,

The following notes and attachments relate to the evidence which I gave to the hearing in Cairns yesterday, 14th April.

1. Pinnacle Report

Document number - 03-025-DOT-33

The document in my possession is titled-

Strictly business in confidence

Tablelands Economic Development Corporation

Stage Two Final Report

Case analysis for the establishment of the 'Cairns Highlands Business Centre' and its activities, in the Atherton Tablelands/Cairns Highlands Region

Prepared by Pinnacle Management

16 February 2004

In the Preface it states in part -

"In July 2003, the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) under their Atherton Tablelands Sustainable Regions Advisory Committee (ATSRAC), and with the support from the Tablelands Economic Development Corporation (TEDC), retained the services of Pinnacle Management to undertake a feasibility study on the development of a food and fibre hub in the Atherton Tablelands region. Etc....."

If require I can send my copy of this document to the Committee. It is 164 pages in length.

2. Hoop Pine plantation development

(elaboration and further developments re comment 4 in my written submission).

Three files, copied to me by Herberton Shire Council, are attached: They contain the project application, the project description and the funding agreement.

I was under the impression that the final application was lodged during the second half of 2003 but the one attached is dated 11/2/2004.

Further to my evidence yesterday I now note that DOTARS expects the project to be concluded not by May 2006 (the date suggested during the planning meeting held yesterday morning with Councillor Portess) but December 15 2005.

I note that on page 25 of the Application it is suggested that the project would run from April 2003 to October 2005 (30 months)(This is despite the application being dated 11/2/2004); the Project Description indicated on page 3 it would take 61 weeks from the commencement

while the time granted by DOTARS on page 38 of Funding Agreement is from signing (earliest end of April 2005) to 15 December 2005 - a maximum of 33 weeks.

The original timing was largely to accommodate the relevant experts required to undertake this project. Most have prior commitments and are unable to work on this project full time especially when given short notice. I expect that in view of the above factors, the Funding Agreement will have to be amended either in work to be undertaken or in relation to the time frame. Either way further delays could be expected especially given past experience.

Please let me know if you require further assistance.

Sincerely Geoff Stocker