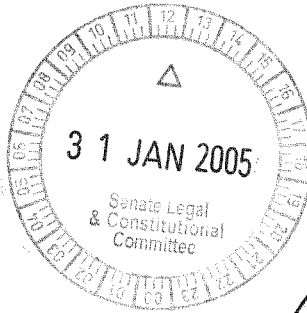
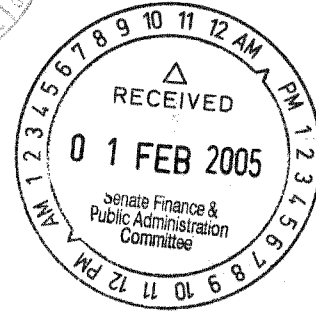


Mr Peter Botfield

Boronia Park
Woodlands Rd
Duri NSW 2344



Ph 02 6768 0229
Mob 0407 68 0229



19th January 2005

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Please find attached my submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program and Sustainable Regions Program.

Thank you for the opportunity of putting my concerns to the Committee.

I would be happy to attend a Committee hearing should the members of the Committee wish to question me on any of the points raised.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Botfield".

Peter Botfield

Submission by

Mr Peter Botfield

to

the Senate Inquiry

into

the Regional Partnerships Program

and

Sustainable Regions Program

About Peter Botfield

Peter Botfield was the inaugural Chairman of the New England North West Area Consultative Committee from 1995 – 2000

He was replaced as Chairman by Mr Patrick Maher, the then National Party Federal Electorate Council Chairman and NSW State Vice President of the National Party.

Past involvements

- Founding Chairman Jakab Industries (32 years)
- Member of Society of Automotive Engineers (1980 – current)
- President Tamworth & Chamber of Commerce – 1993-95
- Board Member Tamworth Dev Corp 1993-2000
- Tamworth City Councillor 1995-2000 (Chair of Finance Committee)
- Tamworth Base Hospital Board 1991-96
- Member North West Health Care Foundation
- Founding Member of the Tamworth Business Enterprise Centre
- Initiator of Northern Inland Regional Alliance 1996-2000
- Initiator NSW Country Summits 1996
- Inaugural Chair National Equine & Livestock Centre Steering Committee

Current involvements

- Current Vice Chair of Billabong Clubhouse Mental Health Centre – Tamworth
- Patron of Australian Railway Memorial – Werris Creek
- Chair of Tamworth Manilla Landcare Association

Contact Details

Address Boronia Park
 Woodlands Road
 Duri NSW 2344

Phone 02 6768 0229

Mobile 0407 68 0229

The following submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program and Sustainable Regions Program relates to the circumstances surrounding the National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth of which I was the inaugural Chairman to drive the project forward.

I believe my submission meets the terms of reference of the Inquiry including

- (a) decisions to fund or not to fund particular projects;
- (b) the recommendations of area consultative committees;
- (c) the recommendations of departmental officers and recommendations from any other sources including from other agencies or other levels of government;
- (d) the nature and extent of the respective roles of the administering department, minister and parliamentary secretary, other ministers and parliamentary secretaries, other senators or members and their advisers and staff in the process of selection of successful applications;
- (e) the criteria used to take the decision to fund projects;
- (f) the transparency and accountability of the process and outcomes;
- (g) the mechanism for authorising the funding of projects;
- (h) the constitutionality, legality and propriety of any practices whereby any members of either House of Parliament are excluded from committees, boards or other bodies involved in the consideration of proposed projects, or coerced or threatened in an effort to prevent them from freely communicating with their constituents

National Equine and Livestock Centre – Tamworth

- In August 2000, the first public meeting at the Tamworth Community Centre was organised by Tony Windsor MP – then NSW State Independent Member for Tamworth with 45 horse National and Local horse sports groups attending.
- Matthew Kelley organised the original sketch plans for presentation to this meeting
- Mr Peter Botfield attended as an interested party and volunteered to be on the working group to progress the project.
- At the first meeting of the working group, Peter Botfield was nominated by the horse industry user groups to Chair the Steering Committee as the groups recognised his involvement with the horse industry (President Tamworth Junior Riding Club 1980's) and Tamworth City Council and the broader business community.
- The Steering group comprised representatives of the major user groups (NCHA, AQHA, ABCRA, Tamworth P&A, Tamworth City Council, NENWACC, NSW Dept of State Development, Tony Windsor, John Cull MP then Peter Draper MP
- After a site identification and selection procedure, an option was taken on a 125 acre site by the Tamworth City Council at the recommendation of the Steering Group to secure what was seen as the most appropriate location next to the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre and other sport and recreation facilities.
- After several meetings it became evident the concept of a National Livestock and Equine Centre was not clearly understood and therefore Peter Botfield approached Greg Hill (a partner with John Carr Architects in Tamworth) to draw up a draft concept plan for the project to put the concept on the table to allow groups to comment and have input into the project as well as allowing more accurate costings for the project to take place.
- Tamworth City Council (\$10,000) and Peter Botfield and Brian Cobcroft each contributed \$1,000 to fund these concept plans.
- The final draft was a good result that satisfied all users.
- Sinclair Knight Merz was then commissioned to undertake a feasibility study funded for \$33,000 by the Federal Government through an application to the New England North West Area Consultative Committee

approval of which took about 6 months. Sinclair Knight Merz were purposely chosen as they were an outside reputable and respected organisation.

- NSW State Government accepted proposal developed by Sinclair Knight Merz and pledged \$3.35M on proviso that Feds match funding in lead up to State bi-election for seat of Tamworth
- The same application was also sent to the Federal Government for the same amount - \$3.35M with presentations made to Stuart St Clair MP, Senator Sandy Macdonald, Maher prior to election in 2001.
- Peter Botfield in his capacity as Chairman of the Steering Group and having known Patrick Maher for over 30 years had a meeting with him to ask his advice on how best to access Federal funding for the project.
- He was told that the pre-election funding had already been taken up and gave no other advice as to how else it could access Federal Government support.
- Other presentations were made to Jacqui Kelly Minister for Sport and Tourism's senior staff ushered around by Senator Sandy Macdonald – the meeting with the Minister herself was not able to proceed as it was at the time of the September 11 terrorist attack in New York.
- Denials were made by Patrick Maher, Stuart St Clair and Sandy Macdonald that submissions had been received by the Government despite Mr Botfield having received letters acknowledging receipt of a submission from Stuart St Clair and Sandy Macdonald (copies attached) and Senator Macdonald's ushering him to the meeting with the Minister's senior staff member.
- After several attempts, a meeting was held at John Anderson's office in February 2002 - after the November 2001 Federal election and defeat of the National Party's Stuart St Clair by Tony Windsor.
- Prior to the meeting with John Anderson, Patrick Maher stated that if Tony Windsor turned up for the meeting, he would not be turned away but no discussion would take place.
- John Anderson decided to hand the scrutiny of the report to Professor John Chudleigh to report back to him – a process that had not happened previously.
- A Statement made to Peter Botfield by Patrick Maher that he (Peter Botfield) was too political and should stand down

- Peter Botfield did step back to give the project a better chance of funding success.
- After Chudleigh Report knocking back the Federal funding, Patrick Maher wanted the project to be re-jigged by the ACC stating the example of the Aero-College and that this was the work of the group of Northern Inland Regional Alliance (set up by Mr Botfield) and drawing the Equine Centre away from the influence of Tony Windsor.
- After the knock-back of Federal funding, it was Tony Windsor who kept the groups together encouraging them to keep focussed and convening meetings of the major user groups.
- Prof Chudleigh recommended that the P&A Showground site be revisited. TCC then funded a revised study taking this into consideration which again showed that the Showground was unsuitable.
- The current offer of \$6m by the Federal Government is the only significant difference between the original submission to both the Federal and State Governments which was for \$3.35m.
- In my opinion, this increased amount came about as a result of political pressures in the run up to the October 9, 2004 Federal Election.



New South Wales

The Hon Harry Woods MP
Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Rural Affairs
Minister for Local Government

208 001

COPY

Tel: (02) 9338 6713
Fax: (02) 9338 6726
Contact: Bob Jones
Ref: R38643

Mr Paul J Anderson
Environment & Planning Services Director
Tamworth City Council
PO Box 555,
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Mr Anderson,

I refer to your letter of 28 June 2001 advising of the proposed development of a National Equine and Livestock Centre in Tamworth.

The Economic Feasibility Report and drawings have been brought to the attention of Mr Barry Rothwell, Business Development Manager, Department of State and Regional Development, Tamworth. As you would be aware, Mr Rothwell has maintained ongoing communication with Mr Phil Lyon, General Manager, Tamworth City Council, with regard to the proposed Centre.

You would also be aware of course that the Department of State and Regional Development has contributed to the cost of the initial feasibility investigation into this project.

I wish Council well with its efforts to raise capital funding from the local community and the private sector to make the Centre a reality.

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely,

for Harry Woods
Minister for Regional Development and
Minister for Rural Affairs

Atten
Date

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23 AUG 2001			
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②



Stuart St. Clair MP
 FEDERAL MEMBER FOR NEW ENGLAND
 MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL PARTY OF AUSTRALIA

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Anderson		✓
27 AUG 2001		

22 August 2001

Mr Paul Anderson
 Environmental and Planning Services Director
 Tamworth City Council
 437 Peel Street
 TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Handwritten initials: PA

Dear Mr Anderson

Handwritten signature: Paul

Thank you for your letter of 22 August 2001 providing me with the details of funding required for the proposed Australian Equine Livestock Centre in Tamworth.

I understand funding in the amount of \$3.5 million is requested from the Federal Government as a contribution to this project.

Please be assured of my wholehearted support for this project and understanding of its importance to the equine industry and Tamworth district.

I have made representations on your behalf to the Hon John Anderson MP, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Transport and Regional Services and requested his consideration of this project and advice on an appropriate avenue for funding.

When I have received his advice I will contact you again.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Large handwritten signature: Stuart

Stuart St.Clair MP
 'Strengthening New England'

FO
Attention
Date refe



"Strengthening New England"

PO Box 621
 150 Rusden Street
 ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Telephone
 +61 2 6772 7688

Toll Free
 1800 801 082

Facsimile
 +61 2 6772 7675

Mobile
 0412 315 566

Email
 tuart.St.Clair.MP@aph.gov.au

Website
 www.stclairnewengland.com

SS:KD



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA • THE SENATE

SENATOR SANDY MACDONALD

National Party Senator for NSW

COPY

23 August 2001

Mr Paul Anderson
Environment & Planning Services Director
Tamworth City Council
PO Box 555
TAMWORTH, NSW, 2340

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44597.C1	B
Anderson	Anderson
27 AUG 2001	
[Signature]	

Atte
Date

Dear Mr Anderson,

Thank you for your letter of 10 August, 2001, providing an update on the proposed Australian Equine Livestock Centre at Tamworth. The proposal is innovative and impressive.

In the meantime, my office will work closely with the office of Federal Member for New England, Stuart St Clair, to investigate Federal funding possibilities.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Macdonald
National Party Senator for NSW

Trish Betts

From: Deitz, Nicky (Sen S. Macdonald) [Nicky.Deitz@aph.gov.au]
Sent: Tuesday, 18 September 2001 10:48 AM
To: 'p.betts@tamworth.nsw.gov.au'
Subject: NELC delegation meetings

Hi Trish,

I have finally been able to confirm times for two meetings. Details are:

Minister for Sport, Jackie Kelly (senior Sport adviser, Bill Rowe) - 3:30pm
Thursday in Senator Sandy Macdonald's office (S1-30)

Minister for Transport and Regional Services, John Anderson (senior Regional
Solutions adviser, Joy Thomas) - 5pm Wednesday in Anderson's office (MG-41).

Trish, these are the best times I can arrange with the advisers and I am hoping this suits the delegation. I apologise for the short notice but trying to organise advisers can sometimes be a nightmare, especially in light of what has happened in the past week.

Can you please let the delegation know ASAP of these meeting times. Any probs, please call me on 6277 3707. I am happy to meet the delegation for their meetings and take them to Anderson's office if need be. Stuart St Clair will also try to be at both meetings.

Kind regards,

Nicky Deitz
Media Adviser
Senator Sandy Macdonald
National Party Senator for NSW

Kingston Court
6295 2244

4 Tench St
Kingston

**INDUSTRY
SCIENCE
RESOURCES**

LEVEL 1
33 ALLARA STREET
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601
GPO BOX 9839
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

TELEPHONE: 02 6213 7999
FACSIMILE: 02 6213 7119
EMAIL: rtp@isr.gov.au

Mr Paul Anderson
Director
Tamworth City Council
P O Box 555
437 Peel Stree
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Mr Anderson

REGIONAL TOURISM PROGRAM 2001-02

Letter of Acknowledgment

We have received your proposal for funding under the 2001-02 Regional Tourism Program. Please quote the reference number below in any communications with the Department about your proposal.

Reference number: **R/01/274**

Project: **Australian Equine and Livestock Centre (AELC)**

Assessments have commenced and you will be advised by the end of December if your proposal has been shortlisted. It is anticipated that announcements of successful proposals will be made during March/April 2002.

Please note that the information provided in proposals remains the property of the Commonwealth Government, however, if you would like attachments such as photos, videos or planning documents returned following assessment, please contact the RTP helpline on 02 6213 7999. Information sought under this Program is treated as Commercial-in-Confidence, however it may be subject to disclosure under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982*.

Yours sincerely

cc
J Jeff Beeston
Manager
Program Development and Management
Sport and Tourism Division

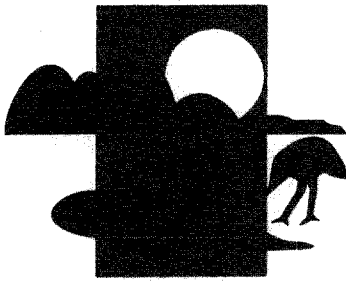
10 November 2001

**ACTION
REQUIRED**

File	F23-2	Fol	22
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To	P Anderson		
19 NOV 2001			
Copy			
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Attentio
Date refe

NEW ENGLAND
NORTH WEST



REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BOARD

New England - North West Regional Development Board Inc.

ABN: 21 621 262 624

PO Box 1138 ARMIDALE NSW 2350
Ph: (02) 6771 3284 Fax: (02) 6771 3286
Email: nenwrdb@northnet.com.au

Wednesday 12th December 2001

Peter Botfield
"Boronia Park"
Woodlands Rd
DURI NSW 2340

Dear Peter

The New England - North West Regional Development Board would like to thank you for your recent presentation to the Board meeting in Manilla. The Board were very interested to hear about the proposed development of an Equine & Livestock Centre at Tamworth that would bring a significant economic injection to the regional economy.


The Board agreed that they would like to support the project and encourage the working committee in finding further funding. To this end, the Board's Chairman would like to assist you in discussing the matter further with federal members of Parliament in the region if the working committee considers this appropriate.

The Board wish you and the working committee every success with the project and look forward to hearing more about this exciting proposal.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Montgomery', written in a cursive style.

Mike Montgomery
CHAIR
NE-NW Regional Development Board


Office of the Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Leader National Party of Australia

17 December 2001

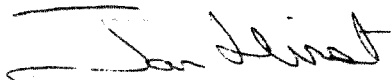
Senator Sandy Macdonald
National Party Senator for NSW
PO Box 1780
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

Dear Senator Macdonald

I acknowledge receipt of correspondence dated 5 December 2001, to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and Regional Services, the Hon John Anderson MP, regarding the proposed National Equine and Livestock Centre to be based in Tamworth.

The matters you have raised are receiving attention and a response will be forwarded shortly.

Yours sincerely



Jan Hirst
Policy Adviser



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

467 Peel Street
TAMWORTH, N.S.W 2340
Tel. (02) 6766 6998
Fax. (02) 6766 4169
Free Call: 1800 019 537

1st February 2002

Mr Peter Botfield
Chairman
Australian Equine and Livestock Centre committee
Woodlands Rd
DURI, NSW, 2344

Dear Mr Botfield,

I refer to recent telephone conversations with my office regarding a proposed meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister, The Hon John Anderson, to discuss the Australian Equine and Livestock Centre submission, now with Treasury.

I have been able to arrange a meeting for 3pm, Friday 22nd February 2002, to take place at John Anderson's electorate office, 344 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah. We will be joined by Member for Tamworth, Mr John Cull MP, Area Consultative Committee Chairman, Mr Patrick Maher, Tamworth City Council, Mayor, Cr James Treloar, Mr Paul Anderson from Council and Mr Brien Cobcroft from the committee.

I trust this is a convenient arrangement for you and I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can do anything further for you or the organising committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Macdonald
National Party Senator for NSW

SENATOR SANDY MACDONALD National Party Senator for NSW

THE NATIONAL PARTY ADVANCING AUSTRALIA FAIRLY





PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA
THE SENATE

PARLIAMENT HOUSE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

467 Peel Street
TAMWORTH, N.S.W 2340
Tel. (02) 6766 6998
Fax: (02) 6766 4169
Free Call: 1800 019 537

18th February 2002

Mr Peter Botfield
Chairman
Australian Equine and Livestock Centre committee
Woodlands Rd
DURI, NSW, 2344

Dear Mr Botfield, *Ms*

I refer to our conversations regarding a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister, The Hon John Anderson, to discuss the Australian Equine and Livestock Centre submission.

The meeting has been brought forward to 10.30am, Friday 22nd February 2002, to take place at John Anderson's electorate office, 344 Conadilly Street, Gunnedah.

I trust this is a convenient arrangement for you and I look forward to seeing you on the day.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if I can do anything further for you or the organising committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sandy Macdonald
National Party Senator for NSW



Tamworth City Council

RAY WALSH HOUSE
437 PEEL STREET
TAMWORTH NSW 2340

TELEPHONE: (02) 6755 4428

PO BOX 555 TAMWORTH 2340
DX 6125, FAX (02) 6755 4464
E-mail: p.anderson@tamworth.nsw.gov.au
ABN 93 752 522 800



In reply please quote:
PJA/PB/E23

If telephoning ask for:
Mr P J Anderson
Environment & Planning Services Director

Please address all correspondence to
the General Manager

21 February 2002

Mr P Botfield
"Boronia Park"
Woodlands Road
Duri 2344

Dear Sir

PROPOSED AUSTRALIAN EQUINE AND LIVESTOCK CENTRE FOR TAMWORTH

A meeting of the Australian Equine and Livestock Centre Working Group has been called for:

FRIDAY 8 MARCH 2002

COMMENCING 3:00 pm

in the

FUNCTION ROOM

Ray Walsh House

This meeting will be used to discuss issues that have arisen since the last meeting of the Working Group, including the discussions to be held with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Transport, The Hon John Anderson MP. This meeting has been scheduled to take place in Gunnedah on Friday 22 February 2002 and will be attended by Senator Sandy Macdonald, Mr John Cull MP, Cr James Treloar and myself representing both Tamworth City Council and the Working Group along with Mr Peter Botfield.

Your presence at the Working Group meeting would be appreciated. If you are unable to attend, could you please phone your apology to Trish Betts on 6755 4428 before the meeting

Yours faithfully

Paul J Anderson
Environment and Planning Services Director