



Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay



**Queensland
Government**

Reference: 12732/09

**Minister for Primary Industries
and Fisheries**

17 DEC 2009

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane Qld 4000

Neil
Dear Mr Laurie

I refer to your letter of 4 September 2009 to the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP concerning petition numbers 1278-09 and 1298-09. As this issue falls within my Ministerial portfolio the correspondence was forwarded to me for response on 18 November 2009.

On 5 October 2009, I wrote directly to a number of the petitioners who had signed e-petition number 1278-09 in regard to the Burdekin Campus of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation and following is a copy of the contents of my response.

I refer to the E-Petition you signed to the Queensland Legislative Assembly concerning the Burdekin Campus of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC). I thank you for the petition and commend your commitment to training for the agricultural sector.

The rural industry certainly does need support from all communities like Burdekin, so that the industry continues to attract young people into its workforce.

It is important though that rural communities understand that things have changed over the past decade in relation to education and training in the agricultural sector. There are many options for training including, most importantly workplace training. This seems to be the priority type of training for the production horticulture and sugar cane industries.

AACC desires to become the preferred training provider in the rural industry and thus needs to diversify its product range. No longer can AACC support four full time residential training campuses. As well AACC must meet the training needs of regional rural industry.

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Let me assure you that AACC will continue to have a significant presence throughout the Burdekin region. I look forward to making some important announcements concerning the future of AACC in the near future.

Again I would like to thank you for your interest and commitment to rural training and the future of AACC.'

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please contact Ms Nicole Seils, Acting Principal Advisor in my office on telephone 07 3239 3000.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Mulherin', with a stylized, cursive script.

TIM MULHERIN, MP
Minister for Primary Industries, Fisheries
and Rural and Regional Queensland
Member for Mackay