



Hon Tim Mulherin MP
Member for Mackay

Reference: 12811/09

23 DEC 2009

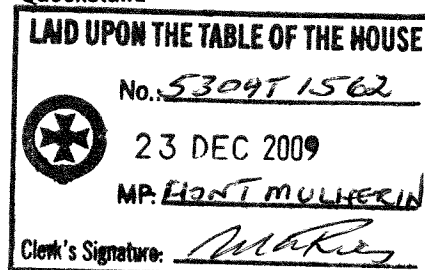
Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Cnr Alice and George Streets
Brisbane QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie



**Queensland
Government**

Minister for Primary Industries,
Fisheries and Rural and Regional
Queensland



I refer to your letter of 17 September 2009 to the Minister for Education and Training, the Honourable Geoff Wilson MP concerning petition number 1309-09. As this issues falls within my Ministerial portfolio your letter was forwarded to me on the 18 November 2009 for response.

The petition was in regard to the Burdekin Campus of the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) and 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.

Let me assure the petitioners 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.

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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