

The Honourable Anna Bligh MP
Premier
PO Box 15185
City East Qld 4002

Dear Premier

The purpose of this letter is to seek your approval to transfer administrative responsibility for the *Agricultural College Act 2005* (Act) from the Minister for Education, Training and Minister for the Arts to the Minister for Primary Industries and Fisheries effective from and including 1 July 2008 as agreed between us.

The Act creates the Australian Agricultural College Corporation (AACC) as a statutory corporation sole which consists of a single incorporated office, occupied by a single person. The proposed MOG change will mean that from 1 July 2008 the corporation sole will be constituted by the chief executive of the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries (DPI&F). Currently AACC is constituted by the chief executive of the Department of Education, Training and the Arts (DETA).

We are advised that no legislative amendments are required to effect the MOG change. There will also be no transfer of staff from DETA to DPI&F. The AACC will be transferred as a self-contained corporate entity responsible for the day-to-day management of its own resources. The Attachment outlines the practical effect of the MOG change and the consequent change in roles and responsibilities for DPI&F and DETA.

The AACC provides high-quality vocational education and training for agriculture and rural industries through five campuses located at Burdekin, Dalby, Emerald, Longreach and Mareeba.

The reason for the proposed MOG change is for DPI&F to form a strategic partnership with the AACC to:

- strengthen and expand agricultural workforce skilling and training to meet industry needs;
- rationalise DPI&F's research and development (R&D) infrastructure and reinvest savings into R&D for the primary industries sector;
- expand DPI&F's R&D capabilities through access to AACC's training resources and facilities;
- improve the on-farm experience of AACC's trainees and access to cutting edge research and technology and improve AACC's commercial competitiveness in providing training; and
- strengthen and expand DPI&F's current extension activities through industry training initiatives.

The proposal to transfer responsibility for AACC from DETA to DPI&F is a major step toward enhancing service delivery and DPI&F investment in the primary industries sector. It is complementary to a separate submission "Enhanced Service Delivery

and Investment Blueprint for the Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries” expected to be considered by Cabinet Budget Review Committee in May 2008. The submission outlines DPI&F’s proposed administrative arrangements for AACC and DPI&F once the MOG change is effective.

Under the proposed new arrangements, DETA will continue to achieve accredited vocational education and training outcomes through AACC. DPI&F will conduct an investigation in the 2008-2009 financial year into AACC’s core business and structure to ensure the new arrangements with AACC will continue to be economically viable and meet DETA education/training objectives, DPI&F R&D objectives and industry needs.

If you require any further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Bruce Turner, Executive Director, Strategic Policy of DPI&F on telephone 07 3239 3180 or email bruce.turner@dpi.qld.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

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

ROD WELFORD, MP
Minister for Education and Training
Minister for the Arts