



EMERALD
Shire Council

APR 2005
ATSI

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The Secretary
Standing Committee on Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Affairs
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into Indigenous Employment

Thank you for your letter of the 23rd March 2005 inviting comments on Indigenous Employment.

This Shire does not have a large indigenous (ATSI) population but I will provide the following comments on the experiences of this Council.

The few indigenous employees Council has are reliable, good workers and integrate well in the workforce. The Central Highlands area in Queensland has diverse industry with coal mining being a dominant employer. There is generally a lack of skilled tradesmen which is Australia wide.

If indigenous employees concentrate on obtaining operators' tickets, doing trades and associated experience, they will have no problem finding employment in Central Queensland.

Housing is a problem with the present demand with rentals being high and vacancies low. Therefore, the provision of public housing for indigenous people would be an important element.

Generally, there are jobs in Central Queensland for various types of skills.

I hope this short précis is of assistance.

Yours faithfully

Bryan Ottone
Chief Executive Officer