

Appendix 3

**Copy of letter sent to regional councils from the Deputy
Prime Minister and the Minister for Regional
Development**



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

Senator the Hon. Fiona Nash

Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources
Leader of The Nationals
Federal Member for New England

Minister for Regional Development
Minister for Local Government and Territories
Minister for Regional Communications
Deputy Leader of the Nationals

Dear

We are writing to encourage you to get involved in an Australian Senate inquiry on the relocation of government bodies to regional areas. We believe the Senate committee would value your views on why areas outside big cities deserve jobs.

The inquiry will look at the operation, effectiveness and consequences of relocating corporate Commonwealth entities, as well as the economic, environment and capability implications. Inquiries such as this are an important mechanism for you to present your Council's views to Parliament and have them placed on the public record. The Terms of Reference are enclosed for your information.

Through our policy of decentralisation, including establishing Centres of Agricultural Excellence in regional Australia, the Turnbull / Joyce Government is boosting jobs and investing in regional communities. These moves are delivering substantial economic benefits not only to regional Australia, but to the national economy and all Australians.

We believe regional Australia deserves the benefits of public sector employment just as much as any capital city. After all, regional Australia supplies the water, food, electricity and gas that powers our cities and supports our high quality of life.

We understand the benefits of moving government agencies out of Canberra. We are already seeing significant savings of around \$1.2 million per year by relocating the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation to Wagga Wagga. Public service jobs are driving downstream employment opportunities in regional communities and employees are reaping the benefits of affordable housing, a fantastic environment for families, fresh air, no gridlock, a sense of community and access to schools, parks, rivers and lakes.

We encourage you to make a submission to the inquiry by 10 March 2016. Explain to the Senate why regional Australia deserves an injection of government investment that will pay

off for years to come. We would welcome any research you have about how decentralisation can drive regional economic growth and build stronger regional communities.

The Senate Committee is unlikely to undertake regional consultation without sufficient interest and we suggest that your submission include a request to have a hearing in a regional area where you and others can represent the views of your community.

Submissions can be made:

- online at www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/PublicGovernance/
- by post to Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees, PO Box 6100, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600
- by email to fpa.sen@aph.gov.au.

Useful information about how to prepare a submission is available at www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/How_to_make_a_submission. You may also contact the Committee Secretariat on 02 6277 3439 or at fpa.sen@aph.gov.au.

We urge you to have your say in this important national conversation.

Yours sincerely

Barnaby Joyce

Fiona Nash

Enc.

Terms of Reference

The operation, effectiveness, and consequences of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Location of Corporate Commonwealth Entities) Order 2016*, with particular reference to:

- a. the process leading to the making of the order
- b. the policy of relocating corporate Commonwealth entities with agricultural policy or regulatory responsibilities, including:
 - i. the identity of corporate Commonwealth entities that could be affected;
 - ii. the policy's effect on the ability of affected entities to perform their functions; and
 - iii. economic, environmental and capability implications of the policy;
- c. the application of this policy to the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority, including:
 - i. the plan for relocation;
 - ii. the ability of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to perform its functions from its new location, and any consequent risks to:
 - A. human and animal health;
 - B. productivity and profitability to the agriculture and fisheries sectors;
 - C. chemical industries; and
 - D. Australia's trading reputation;
- d. any other related matters.

Submission closing date is: **10 March 2017**. The report is due to be tabled on: **9 May 2017**

