

10 March 2006

Committee Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Department of Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA 2600

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Swan Hill Rural City Council is pleased to present the attached submission to the Inquiry into Pacific Region seasonal contract labour.

The Swan Hill region has been characterised by relatively low unemployment, significant job growth that is linked to the large-scale horticulture developments and low population growth that has led to substantial skill shortages across a number of industries and occupations.

This inquiry gives the opportunity to look at addressing the on-going skill shortage in the horticulture industry with the option of the introduction of a seasonal Pacific Labour Program.

The Swan Hill Rural City Council encourages the Federal Government to consider the merits of such a program and we look forward through our representative Ms Deborah Quin to elaborate on our submission at the Inquiry hearing at Robinvale on March 23.

Yours sincerely

Garry Tepper
Economic Development Manager
Swan Hill Rural City Council