



**NORTH COAST  
INSTITUTE**

The Committee Manager  
Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Macquarie Street  
**SYDNEY NSW 2000**

**COFFS HARBOUR  
EDUCATION CAMPUS**

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Dear Sir/Madam

The TAFE NSW - North Coast Institute Council wishes to make the following submission to assist the inquiry process into infrastructure provision in coastal growth areas in NSW.

The Council's role as an advisory body is to focus and enhance the planning and delivery of TAFE courses and services in the North Coast region to ensure that TAFE NSW – North Coast Institute meets the requirements of industry, students and the community. The Council comprises 13 industry and community representatives from the region (attachment 1) and the Institute Director as an ex-officio member. Appointments to the Council are made by the Minister for Education and Training and Cabinet on the recommendation of the Institute Director.

The points that the Council would like the committee to consider are:

1. TAFE campuses need to be recognised as an important part of the infrastructure of country towns and regional centres in coastal growth areas. Apart from providing a centre of vocational learning and further education, TAFE campuses also work closely with other education providers (eg schools, universities and group training companies) and with industry and community groups.
2. Governments need to give a high priority to funding expansion and improvement of TAFE facilities in coastal growth centres to ensure skills, industry and economic development keeps pace with regional population growth. However, equally important is the need for governments to back up any additional infrastructure funding with growth in recurrent funding to expand TAFE service provision.
3. The State could approach the Commonwealth Government to suggest a joint, streamlined process that will encourage, support and fund TAFE and universities to work together in those coastal growth areas without university campuses. There is a particular need for a fast-track approach for Commonwealth funding of additional joint infrastructure requirements that arise when TAFE opens up access to their facilities for university students.

4. It is important at both the State and Federal levels to support whole-of-government approaches and government-industry partnerships in planning and funding infrastructure for skills development and vocational learning. A higher priority needs to be given in regional economic and industry development incentive funding to supporting partnerships of TAFE, industry, local government and other education providers to establish joint facilities and ICT infrastructure that will support skills development and vocational education.
5. There needs to be early consultation between the State and Federal Governments and project proponents in relation to the proposed Australian Technical Colleges. Two such colleges are planned in the immediate future in the North Coast coastal growth areas of Port Macquarie and Ballina/Lismore and the North Coast Institute is cooperating with the proponents. The Institute Council is keen to emphasise that these, or any future ATC initiatives need to involve both TAFE and schools at the early planning stages to ensure that infrastructure is not duplicated and to minimise any unproductive competition that would lead to existing infrastructure being under-utilised.
6. Other non-TAFE infrastructure issues that are important for TAFE institutes to better service our region are obviously transport from smaller centres into the larger regional centres and cost-effective broadband into these smaller centres.

Yours sincerely



Warren Grimshaw AM

**Chair, North Coast Institute Council**

on behalf of the Institute Council (full membership in attachment 1)

3 May 2005

Attach

**North Coast Institute Council**

David Funnell representing the Adult and Community Education sector

Councillor Sue Nash, Nambucca Shire Council (*also representing rural women's networks*)

Judy Radich, Manager Cooloon Children's Centre Inc; National President Australian Early Childhood Association

Kay Sharp AM, Chief Executive Hunter Valley Training Company Pty Ltd (*incorporating Mid North Coast, North Coast and Northern Rivers Group Training*)

Professor Zbys Klich, Pro Vice-Chancellor Southern Cross University (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Des Williams, Deputy Chair Many Rivers ATSIIC (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Brenda Neave, North Coast Institute Staff Representative (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Ron Craggs, Group General Manager Corporate Services and Company Secretary Country Energy (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Jan Strom, Deputy Chair Mid North Coast Regional Development Board (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Victoria St Lawrence, Member Northern Rivers Regional Development Board (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Marcus Anderson, North Coast Institute Student Representative (*interim member North Coast Institute Council*)

Neil Black, Institute Director (*ex officio*)

Warren Grimshaw AM, Executive Director Coffs Harbour Education Campus (*Chair North Coast Institute Council*)

**Note:** A vacancy currently exists on Council representing Industry (*Manufacturing & Engineering*)