



G R E A T E R  
S H E P P A R T O N



5 December 2003

Rural and Regional Services  
And Development Committee  
Level 8, 35 Spring Street  
**MELBOURNE VIC 3000**

Dear Sir/Madam

As per telephone conversation with Kristen Murray on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2003, -  
please find attached my Council's submission into the 'Inquiry into the cause of  
fatality and injury on Victorian Farms'.

Yours faithfully

**Don McKenzie**  
**CORPORATE MANAGER**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## CITY OF GREATER SHEPPARTON

### INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF FATALITY AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS

1. **The main causes of fatality and injury on Victorian farms and other primary industries compared to other jurisdictions.**

The main causes of fatality and injury on Victorian farms and other farming industry compared to other jurisdictions is extremely difficult if not impossible to determine other than for two issues i.e. lack of understanding or enough instruction about the job or processes on machinery being used and of course lack of concentration that will bring about an accident no matter how well instructed, detailed or protected a situation is.

The very nature of much of the farm work undertaken does have elements of danger.

2. **The matter and type of these injuries compared to other industries and jurisdictions.**

Unable to really comment on this issue.

3. **Current programs and initiatives designed to improve occupational health and safety on Victorian farms.**

Consider the current programs and initiatives are particularly good and effective.

4. **Any impediments to sustaining improvements in farm safety.**

The major impediment to improving farm safety is the lack of ability to fund improvements – particularly where some infrastructure or works may only be used or undertaken once or twice a year for a short period and then risk/management decisions need to be made relative to capital available for such work.

5. **The financial and social cost of death and injury on Victorian farms.**

Without having access to hard data on this matter it is impossible to provide any substantive comment other than to suggest that we have no information or feeling that would indicate that this is a serious issue or any worse than any other industry or business sector.

6. **The need for further strategies to reduce the incidence of injury and fatality on Victorian farms, what form the strategy should take and whether they are best developed by government agencies, industry bodies, worker representatives or a combination of these. In particular the committee should consider the creation of further codes of practice or education and training programs.**

In this regard it is considered that the increasing emphasis on strategies to reduce injury or fatalities is very much to the fore of everyone's minds due to improved education/awareness programs and training that have also been driven strongly as a result of more stringent insurance requirements and liability issues.

Such issues will continue to evolve. As well as this all machinery and equipment manufacturers are more mindful than ever of these issues and it is anticipated that we will see the results of efforts and programs that are in place with reduced injuries and fatalities in the future e.g. – the decline in our road toll which is the result of better vehicle design/standards, improved roads, education awareness and policing.



**Don McKenzie**  
**CORPORATE MANAGER**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**