

**8.2 MONASH UNIVERSITY**

**Cr Christine Sindt**

That Latrobe City Council advise the Prime Minister Hon Tony Abbott, the Federal Education Minister Hon Christopher Pyne, the Federal Member for McMillan Hon Russell Broadbent, the Victorian Premier Hon Denis Napthine and the State Member for Narracan Hon Gary Blackwood, that a letter has been sent to the Governor General of Australia to express concerns about the proposed gifting of our Group of Eight Monash University Gippsland Campus to Federation University Australia (formerly known as University of Ballarat)

# ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA 16 DECEMBER 2013 (CM427)

Mont Albert  
Victoria 3127  
30 October 2013

Your Excellency,

I would like to draw your attention to the legislation that is being passed in Victoria called "A Bill for an Act to amend the University of Ballarat Act 2010 to change the name of the University of Ballarat to Federation University Australia and for other purposes."

It was introduced in the Victorian Legislative Council on 24 June 2013 and becomes effective on 1 January 2014.

The background to creating Federation University (FedUni) comes from a merger of Monash University Gippsland and the University of Ballarat.

In 2012 Gippsland in Victoria had been named as a Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) by the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies in Japan.

A Regional Centre of Expertise is a network of existing formal, non formal and informal education organisations, mobilised to deliver Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) to local and regional communities.

A network of RCEs worldwide will constitute the Global Learning Space for Sustainable Development. RCEs aspire to achieve the goals of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) 2005-2014 by translating its global objectives into the context of the local communities in which they operate.

I raise my concerns to you about the UNESCO's stated "global education core mandate" and specifically the UN's ESD programs which FedUni plans to launch through the Ballarat and Gippsland campuses next year. It is not very well known that the Vice Chancellor of the University of Ballarat, Professor Battersby, has embedded sustainability into all curricula for FedUni under a Higher Education Sustainability Initiative at the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. The VTAC Bulletin of October 2013 shows that 51 Monash Gippsland and Ballarat University courses have been cancelled and new courses have been added.

ESD is a concept that goes far beyond environmental education. It is a process of achieving human development. It promotes sustainable consumption and production patterns in order to change attitudes and the behaviour of people as individuals, including as producers and consumers, and as citizens. The concept of sustainable development (SD) touches upon all aspects of the social and institutional fabric.

Transformation for SD is the goal of ESD. It involves the transformation of current education, public awareness and training systems for regional sustainable development. The programs of ESD, and the 2013 ECOSOC 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP), as well as the 2011-2013 UNEP science strategy, are being implemented to change people's values and behaviours towards a sustainable future through lifelong learning.

RCEs are used to contribute to changing curricula, pedagogy, various forms of training, corporate and media training and other forms of training.

RCEs aim to modify the content of courses, at all levels, from primary schools to the universities.

If Federation University Australia becomes effective on 1 January 2014 it will modify the content of the university courses to be undertaken at Monash University Gippsland for ESD and not for scholarly learning.

The aim of university education at Gippsland campus has been (up to now) to provide and maintain the scholarly teaching of an excellent world class education in its region and beyond through distant education. This scholarly pursuit of learning is not reflected in ESD which aims to

- change the ways of teaching and learning because it does not perceive education as a process giving understanding of a particular subject.
- produce changes in individuals to act in ways that produce changes towards SD
- make pedagogies participatory for each target group
- incorporate sustainability elements into all learning , formal and non-formal, in a region

The United Nations Organisation has also endorsed 192 EX/6 Annex to promote global citizenship.

This Bill aforementioned must receive the approval of the Federal Government, the State Government and TEQSA. To date, it has been publicly announced in Victoria that Federation University Australia will become effective on 1 January 2014. There has been no public approval given by the Federal Government.

I have written letters to Ministers and to Senators of the Federal Parliament and Ministers and Members of State Parliament. I have had one response to my letters from a Victorian Minister.

The United Nations Organisation is not a part of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act states that we the people of NSW, Victoria, SA, Qld and Tasmania humbly rely on the blessing of Almighty God, and have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and under the Constitution.

I do not wish to see sound, excellent, world class scholarly university education overthrown in Victoria and Australia.

I wish our children and grandchildren to benefit from the world class education that has been offered at Monash University Gippsland to continue into the future.

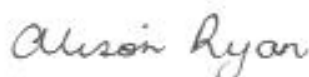
I do not want to see scholarly university education overthrown by ESD from the United Nations Organisation.

It is most apparent that Federation University Australia will be using a foreign nation's education plan to socialise Australians of all ages for the plans of that Organisation. This is quite unacceptable. It is unpatriotic and it must as such contravene the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution and our allegiance as Commonwealth citizens to the Crown.

It is my hope that the Monash University Gippsland can be saved from the socialist ESD agenda of the United Nations Organisation and that it can continue to provide and maintain an excellent standard of education in the region and beyond.

I am writing to ask for your help as Governor- General of the Commonwealth of Australia and I look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Alison Ryan

**From:** Jacinta Saxton  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 10 December 2013 8:39 AM  
**To:** alison ryan  
**Cc:** Jodie Pitkin  
**Subject:** RE: Authorisation to include name and suburb in Vic in Notice of Motion for Next Council Meeting

Thank you Alison.

These details have been included in the Council Agenda for the meeting on Monday, 16 December with your letter.

Regards  
Jacinta

**Jacinta Saxton**

Manager Community Relations  
Latrobe City Council

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<http://www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/>

**From:** alison ryan  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 December 2013 11:22 PM  
**To:** Jacinta Saxton  
**Subject:** Authorisation to include name and suburb in Vic in Notice of Motion for Next Council Meeting

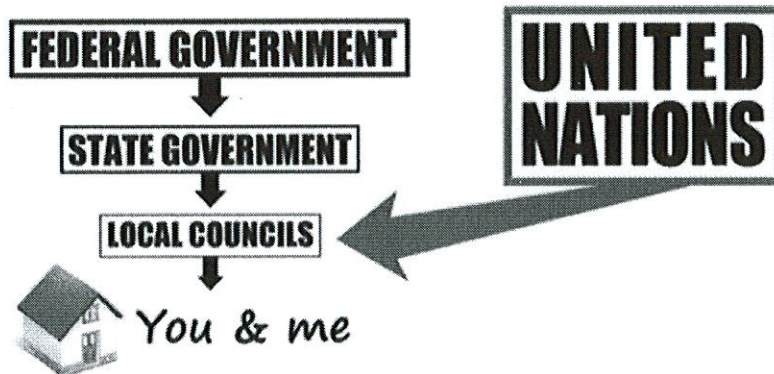
Good evening Jacinta,

Please accept this email as authorisation to include my name and suburb in Victoria in the Notice of Motion for the next Council Meeting.

Kind regards,

Alison Ryan

## WHO DOES YOUR LOCAL COUNCIL WORK FOR?



G'day neighbours,

I am a local and live in your area and recently listened to a program on Fairdinkum Radio, it concerns our local councils.

The information is alarming to say the least, so I have decided to hit the pavement and spread this message.

We have all been asleep, glued to the TV, and yet instinctively most of us know something is wrong with our country.

Here's the deal, whilst we have been busy with our lives, the Globalist's have been having a field day stealing the wealth and sovereignty from all countries around the world - and guess what, Australia too.

The UN Agenda is to control all resources including our local councils, expect massive rate hikes whilst they covertly implement Agenda 21, a wolf in sheeps clothing!

Time to pay attention and do your homework, I urge you to turn off the TV, Google Fair Dinkum Radio and go to the Agenda 21 Tab. There you can listen to host Leon Pittard interview Ann Bessington, MLC SA, expose this agenda. There is also video and audio of other Aussies having a yarn about it.

So give it a go, check out [FairDinkumRadio.com](http://FairDinkumRadio.com), guarantee it will be the Wake Up Call of your life!

I will leave you with this one question for council - **Who Are You?**

From your very concerned neighbour.



Consider the environment and recycle.....to family, friends, work mates

## UN AGENDA 21 (AG21) IN BRIEF (video link)

Graham Williamson – October 2012

- **AG21 is a foreign United Nations (UN) program aimed at controlling all aspects of people's lives.** It reduces or eliminates individual human rights such as private property rights (1, 2, 3, 4). AG21 is a UN program adopted by the Keating government in 1992. It was later ratified by the Howard government & implemented by successive federal, state & local governments of all political persuasions ever since. In 20 years neither of the two major political parties has declared AG 21 as official policy, nor given voters a democratic choice.
- **AG21 is an attempt to undemocratically enforce upon Australians a 'foreign solution' for what are termed "sustainability" issues.** It is vitally important to understand that AG21 is undemocratic. It is an imported agenda that has been designed by, & its implementation monitored by, a foreign agency (the UN). Control must be increasingly surrendered to the UN & its foreign agencies with absolutely no limits being placed on this process.
- **AG21 is very much a blank cheque with no clearly defined goals & no clearly defined limits** regarding costs, legislative changes, loss of sovereignty, as well as loss of individual rights & democracy.
- **Implementation of Agenda 21 around the world is monitored by the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD).** Participating countries are **required** to report back to the UN on a regular basis (5, 6, 7, 8). The CSD, which includes despotic dictators from other countries, will judge Australia's compliance!
- **The guiding principle behind AG21 is a belief in Gaia or ecocentrism (22, 23, 24), or the supremacy of the rights of plants & the environment (25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35) & an abandonment of traditional anthropocentrism (36).** In other words, rights are progressively transferred from humans to plants & the environment with the result that **private property rights** are being surrendered, piece by piece (37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43).
- **Two fundamental concepts upon which AG21 is based are intragenerational equity & intergenerational equity.**
  - a) **Intragenerational equity** states that common goods such as nature, environment, the ecosystem & therefore private property, **must** be shared amongst all. No one has exclusive rights of ownership (44, 45, 46, 47). According to the principle of intergenerational equity, the rights of those who have less may be used to take from those who have more, simply because of this disparity & **not** because of the existence of any legal debt.
  - b) **Intergenerational equity** grants equal rights to those who may exist in the future but who are not yet born (44, 45, 46, 47). With this bold new sense of 'justice' an assumption is made that the actions of one or more persons currently in existence will somehow reduce the quality of life of one or more persons who do not yet exist! Of course we should all be mindful of our responsibility to care for the environment, **but to legally convict a perpetrator when the victim cannot be named, does not exist, nor can his/her degree of suffering be determined, is an astonishing corruption of traditional legal & moral principles.** Yet, this has now become reality. Many see this UN driven ideologically motivated corruption of our legal system as being just. Really?
- **Under Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 the UN established Local Agenda 21 or LA 21 for implementation by local councils** around the world (48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59). Though Chapter 28 of Agenda 21 suggests that "*each local authority should enter into a*

*dialogue with its citizens, local organizations & private enterprises & adopt a local Agenda 21*", in practice **the public has largely been kept ignorant of AG 21 & has been denied a democratic choice by councils & governments around Australia.** These concepts are currently being used by councils & state governments in Australia to tie up land use with regulations, LEP's, zonings & green tape so that private landholders are progressively losing control of their land, with resultant loss in land value.

- **Implementation of LA21 is also promoted by ICLEI, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives,** the name now being changed to Local Governments for Sustainability. In fact, Section 7.21 of Agenda 21, specifically recommends involvement with ICLEI. According to Maurice Strong in the Local Agenda 21 Planning Guide, "*The task of mobilizing & technically supporting Local Agenda 21 planning in these communities has been led by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) & national associations of local government.*" ICLEI supports the "**Cities for Climate Protection Campaign & the Local Agenda 21 Initiative.**"
- **Many authorities prefer to mislead the public by avoiding the term "Agenda 21"**, using instead terms such as (60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65) "*sustainability*", "*smart growth*", "*growth management*", "*local environmental plans*" or **Sustainable Development 21 or SD21** (66, 67, 68, 69). Some local authorities have also changed the name of Local Agenda 21 to '**Local Climate Strategy**' (66). The United Nations **Sustainable Cities** program is yet another spin off of Local Agenda 21 & the UN Habitat agenda (70, 71, 72, 73, 74). **Deliberate deception or failure to fully inform the public** is fundamental to the success of the program (75, 76).
- **Some local authorities overseas are now moving to ban Agenda 21** because of its fundamentally undemocratic regressive nature & the **threat** it poses to basic human rights, not least, our property rights (9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21).

According to Agenda 21 (77, 78, 79), Australians can only have "*improved living standards*", a "*more prosperous future*" & "*managed ecosystems*", if we form a "*global partnership*", a partnership of course which will ultimately be under the control of one global authority. By ourselves we are doomed to failure according to Agenda 21 (77, 78, 79). Chapter 8.31 of Agenda 21 states that countries are required to (80) "*incorporate environmental costs in the decisions of producers & consumers, to reverse the tendency to treat the environment as a 'free good' & to pass these costs on to other parts of society, other countries, or to future generations.*" This is described in Agenda 21 as a (80) "*fundamental objective.*"

**Ratepayers & ordinary Australians will be increasingly required to fund local UN Agenda 21 schemes & 'green' programs with growing rates & taxes such as the CO2 tax. However, these funds will be diverted AWAY from local infrastructure projects to further the global ambitions of the UN, not least their stated intent of a future One World Government.**

Agenda 21 & LA 21, inspired by Mikhail Gorbachev & Maurice Strong who formed the original Earth Charter, amounts to a global power grab & land grab to control & outlaw private land ownership (81, 82, 83, 84, 85).

**Agenda 21 & Local Agenda 21 aims to change our lives, that of our children & future descendants, forever. And yet the political promoters of this program have continually refused to expose this program to the light of truth during an election campaign.**

**It is urgent that we restore democracy to our local area & insist that the voting public are permitted to make an informed democratic choice.**

# The United Nations Octopus Spreads Its Tentacles

## Removing Personal Property Rights

- Restricting/disallowing tree removal/lopping
- Refusing permission to clear rural land
- Resuming properties without adequate compensation

## Supporting climate change scaremongering

- Banning wood burning heaters
- Preventing firewood collection in the bush
- Denying development of coastal properties
- Imposing exorbitant fees for waste disposal

## Ratepayers' funds diverted to 'green' programmes

- Joining in UN's Local Gov. for Sustainability' Programmes
- Appointing full time 'environment officers'
- Supporting international celebrations such as 'Earth Day'

## Basic services neglected

- Reduced rubbish collections
- Roads and pathways deteriorating
- Inadequate infrastructure for high density developments

## Property rights given to other life forms

- 'Biocertification' & 'Biobanking' schemes which permanently lock up private land and are automatically transferred to any new owner
- Protection of native plants & animals used to block developments
- Local environmental plans (LEP's) favouring wildlife
- Bans on culling pests e.g. bats, ibises possums

## Restricting use of our cars

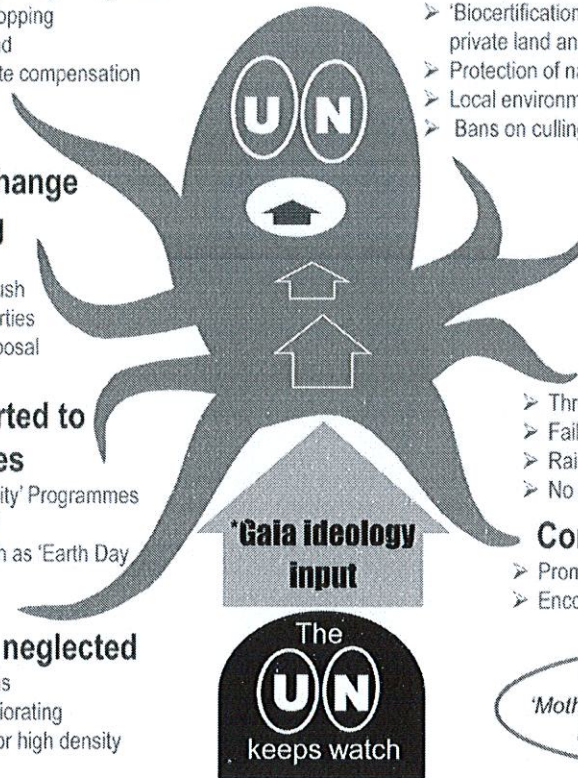
- Bikeways replacing roadways
- Trees planted in former car parking spaces
- Excessive parking fees & fines

## 'Bully boy' tactics

- Threatening those who complain or object
- Failing to advise constituents of council's UN agenda
- Raising rates without justification
- No democratic choice

## Compressing human communities

- Promoting high rise developments
- Encouraging duplex and battleaxe developments



*\*\*"Gaia" refers to the belief that 'Mother Earth' is a living thing or goddess infested with parasitic humans.*

## IS YOUR COUNCIL WORKING FOR THE UN?

### HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

### PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

#### THE PAST

In 1992, the United Nations (UN) sponsored an international conference in Rio De Janeiro, at which most Nations, including Australia, signed up to a UN agreement titled "Agenda 21". AG21. This agreement was based upon **The Earth Charter**, the brainchild of former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev & Canadian, Maurice Strong, godfather of the anthropogenic global warming hoax. The Earth Charter was a set of rules intended to lay the groundwork for complete world control, ostensibly to save the world from environmental suicide. A key component of the Agenda 21 plan is the use of local councils to implement far-reaching UN based environmental controls so that private land increasingly comes under control of local authorities & the UN. This is termed '**Local Agenda 21**' or **LA21**, specifically promoted by the **International Council For Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)**, now known as **Local Governments For Sustainability**. The Australian public was not made aware of these agreements by the politicians who were party to them.

#### THE PRESENT

20 years since Rio & now the Rio+20 conference, held in June, 2012, has strengthened the core aims of AG21. But still, governments at all levels, including most local councils, refuse to give residents a democratic choice & refuse to spell out the full details of the objectives & costs of their UN driven sustainability package. The UN sustainability package remains a wide-reaching charter with sinister goals and no limits to UN control.

#### THE FUTURE

Democracy continues to be trashed by those pushing the UN based sustainability package and AG21. It should greatly concern us all that most Australians remain unaware of the details, goals, or UN origin of AG21 even though it has thoroughly infiltrated all levels of government in Australia. If you care about democracy and the future of this great country, ask these three questions of your council or local member:

1. Do you agree that Local Council programs should be based upon so-called "sustainability" reforms guided and controlled by the UN?
2. Will you propose a complete ban on UN driven or associated Agenda 21 reforms?
3. If not, will you make the full details, goals, & costs of AG21 associated plans an election issue so residents may make a democratic choice?





**Sent:** Friday, 2 August 2013 10:58 AM  
**Subject:** Matters of Due Diligence - Monash University  
**Importance:** High

Senator Kim Carr  
Minister for Higher Education and Innovation

I write to request a meeting, at your earliest opportunity, relating to the matters below, which were raised with the State Minister for Higher Education, Hon Peter Hall, yesterday, by the Maryvale Branch of the Country Women's Association. I wrote to your office on 1 July 2013, after the announcement of your appointment as Minister for Higher Education and received no response.

KEY POINTS FROM MEETING with Victorian State Government members, Hon Peter Hall and Member for Morwell, Russell Northe held yesterday:

It has been proposed that the Gippsland Campus of Monash University be headquartered in Ballarat and that all assets be transferred to Ballarat.

The decision was announced on 22 February 2013.

There was no consultation with the Latrobe City community prior to the announcement, and no consultation with Latrobe City Council.

Over the last three years, the world ranking of Monash University has increased from 178, to 117, and is now in the top 100.

The University of Ballarat is unranked.

If this takeover were to go ahead, our community would obtain second class degrees.

It is understood that this takeover decision was made at a Monash University Council Meeting in January 2013, and that no staff or students were present at that meeting.

The Victorian Auditor General's Report – May 2012, showed Monash to have a Medium risk in terms of debt to equity.

The Victorian Auditor General's Report – May 2013, showed Monash to have a High risk in terms of debt to equity.

Monash South Africa has a multi-million dollar debt to Monash, and Monash has indicated that they will not seek repayment.

Questions have been asked of the Victorian Auditor General by Latrobe City Council regarding the financial status of Monash University.

There has been no response.

It would appear that there are financial issues to be addressed.

GippsTAFE and University of Ballarat already have an agreement for Ballarat degrees to be conferred by GippsTAFE.

Latrobe City Council has requested a copy of that agreement.

There has been no response.

It would appear that the beneficiary of the takeover is GippsTAFE.

Mr Ian Nethercote, who has been a member of the Monash Gippsland Advisory Council, has not represented the interests of our community in a satisfactory manner.

At a Meeting of Councillors with the Vice-Chancellor of Monash University he showed no sense of decorum.

Latrobe City Councillors behaved in a respectful fashion.

The Vice Chancellor indicated that he was open to further meetings.

Mr Nethercote is not a satisfactory representative of our community.

Latrobe City Council has requested copies of Monash Gippsland Advisory Council Minutes.  
A letter was sent to the Vice Chancellor of Monash University by the Latrobe City Mayor on 20 March 2013.

There has been no response.

An informal approach was made to the former Chair, Ian Nethercote, at a meeting of Advance Morwell.

His arrogant response was, "You're not getting them".

The benefits touted by the Vice-Chancellor of University of Ballarat at two meetings (the AGM of Advance Morwell and Latrobe City Councillors) are non-existent.

1. Greater access. The appropriate method is by Articulated Pathways, not by dumbing down our University.
2. Expanded profile. Monash University is already a world-recognised brand.
3. Greater community engagement. The previous representatives on the Monash Gippsland Advisory Council were ineffectual.

In summary, I believe that this has been about bureaucratic blunders, and has nothing to do with our students or what is best for them.

The actions of Monash University are in breach of the Monash University Act (2009) in terms of Governance, and provision of appropriate Programs for the community.

The Vice-Chancellor of Monash University has resigned.

Now is an opportune time to engage with the Monash University Council.

A Notice of Motion is on the Agenda for the next meeting of Latrobe City Council to be held on Monday 5 August 2013.

It is time for a new broom at Monash Gippsland campus, not a takeover by Ballarat.

This has been confirmed by the opening of the New Horizons Building at Monash Clayton by yourself.

The devastation to our local economy of the proposed takeover of our Monash University campus is unconscionable, while the destruction of our current world-class educational opportunities beggars belief.

I would be most grateful if we could arrange a meeting in Melbourne at your earliest opportunity.

Kind regards,

Christine Sindt, PhD, BSc(Hons), Grad Dip Ad Ed, Grad Dip Ed (Sec)

Dr Christine Sindt  
Councillor for Central Ward  
Latrobe City  
45 McLean Street  
Morwell VIC 3840  
E [christine.sindt@latrobe.vic.gov.au](mailto:christine.sindt@latrobe.vic.gov.au)  
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<b>LATROBE CITY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>INFORMATION MANAGEMENT</b>	
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Australian Government

Department of Industry, Innovation,  
Climate Change, Science, Research  
and Tertiary Education

Industry House, 10 Binara Street,  
CANBERRA CITY, ACT 2601  
GPO Box 9839,  
Canberra City, ACT 2601 Australia  
Phone: +61 2 6102  
Email: [@innovation.gov.au](mailto:@innovation.gov.au)  
Web: [www.innovation.gov.au](http://www.innovation.gov.au)  
ABN: 74 599 608 295

Dr Christine Sindt  
Councillor for Central Ward  
Latrobe City

MORWELL VIC 3840

MC13-001630

Dear Dr Sindt

Thank you for your email of 2 August 2013 to the Minister for Higher Education, Senator the Hon Kim Carr, concerning the transfer of Monash University's Gippsland campus to the University of Ballarat. Consistent with the caretaker conventions during the current federal election period, I am responding on behalf of the Minister.

During the period before and up until an election, the Government generally limits its functions to routine administration.

Therefore, I am unable to provide any comment on this matter at this point in time.

Yours sincerely

**Virginia Hart**

General Manager  
Structural Adjustment and Strategic Engagement Branch  
Higher Education Division

5 September 2013



All correspondence to the Secretary:  
2/6 Chestnut Avenue, MORWELL Vic. 3840  
[mqconsult@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:mqconsult@vic.australis.com.au)

Mr John Doyle  
Auditor General  
Victorian Auditor General's Office  
Level 24, 35 Collins Street  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Mr Doyle

**PROPOSAL FOR TAKEOVER OF MONASH UNIVERSITY - CHURCHILL  
CAMPUS**

GRG is concerned about the above which is being undertaken by the University of Ballarat with the assets including intellectual property being vested in Ballarat and the new campus to operate from 1 January 2014 as Federation University Australia.

The University of Ballarat is un-ranked where as Monash is in the group of eight. The announcement without any prior consultation in February 2013 caused great consternation in the community among consumers and the landlord, Latrobe City Council; and in our experience lacks support. We enclose copies of the relevant correspondence:

5 April 2013	- Letter to Premier Denis Napthine
30 September 2013	- Letter from Minister Peter Hall
10 October 2013	- Letter in response to Minister Peter Hall
21 November 2013	- Letter to Latrobe City Councillor
22 November 2013	- Letter from Minister Peter Hall

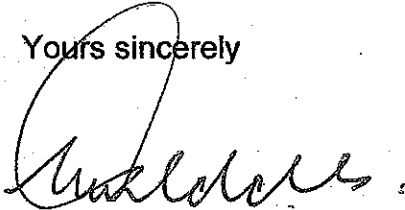
We have been seeking information on probity and procurement issues that the minister refuses to provide transparency on. Letter to Cr Christine Sindt on 21 November 2013 the Minister with breathtaking arrogance suggests that he has un-fettered access to all assets and can transfer that at his discretion. Is this correct? Also how can scarce resources be used for contracts and without tenders?

Also the last paragraph says that "information is the subject of agreement between the Universities and it is not for me to make public what may be material of some commercial confidentiality."

This information appears to be secret as my experience in over 40 years as a practising purchasing professional is that commercial in confidence ceases to exist after the tender process.

If the VAGO has done an appraisal of this takeover proposal, GRG would request a copy of same. If not we think it would be in the public interest to make an appraisal to see if we are receiving value for the transfer of our assets and whether the higher education aspirations will be met by the agreement between University of Ballarat and Monash.

Yours sincerely



MERV GEDDES

Secretary

Also founder M/ No 005237100  
Chartered Institute of Purchasing  
And Supply C.I.P.S. Aust.

11/12/13

cc: Cr Christine Sindt, 45 McLean Street Morwell 3840  
Russell Northe, MLA, 66 George Street Morwell 3840

**CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN GIPPSLAND RESOURCE GROUP INC**  
**AND THE PREMIER OF VICTORIA**

*All correspondence to the Secretary:*  
2/6 Chestnut Avenue, MORWELL Vic. 3840  
[mcconsult@vic.australis.com.au](mailto:mcconsult@vic.australis.com.au)

The Hon Denis Napthine  
Premier of Victoria  
Level 1, 1 Treasury Place  
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Premier

**RE: Proposal for Takeover Monash University Gippsland Campus, Churchill**

We refer to our email of the 5/4/13 through our local member forwarded for your attention through Joanne Gauci (as attached). We are very disappointed that on such a vital issue as the future of higher education in Gippsland that we have had no response.

Latrobe City Council has realised that as our elected representatives that the proposal by the University of Ballarat as described in a letter by the chairperson of Monash University Gippsland Advisory Council of 16/4/2013 (as attached) is completely worthless and without merit.

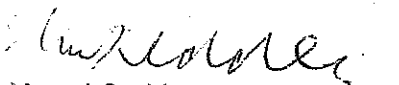
It points more to the maladministration of Monash itself than any perceived benefits. The one and only document put out by the University of Ballarat that Gippsland Resource Group (G.R.G) has seen (attached) shows a very amateurish attempt by a Vice Chancellor with questionable qualifications to seize all assets including intellectual property and vest them in Ballarat.

This is the dumbing down of an internationally recognised university with a regional campus. This proposal is not acceptable to the people of Gippsland and the future of Higher Education in the region. The attempt to paint the University of Ballarat proposal as positive is sadly misinformed and shows that the Monash University Advisory Council is completely out of touch and gullible.

A recent email from the AWU (attached) confirmed by a national radio acknowledgement earlier this week portrays a very different picture of TAFE in Ballarat that the salesman from the University of Ballarat would have us believe.

Gippsland Resource Group formally requests a meeting with yourself, as part of a delegation from Latrobe City; to discuss the resurrection of the once proud Monash University – Gippsland; Churchill Campus.

Yours sincerely

  
Merv J Geddes  
Secretary  
Gippsland Resource Group Inc.

Cc: Russell Northe MLA  
Member for Morwell  
Parliamentary Secretary for Small Business  
66 George Street Morwell VIC 3840

Cc: Dr Christine Sindt  
Councillor Central Ward  
45 McLean Street Morwell VIC 3840



## The Hon. Peter Hall, MLC

Minister for Higher Education and Skills  
Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession

2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002  
Telephone: +61 3 9637 3300  
Facsimile: +61 3 9637 2800

GPO Box 4367  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

HEP 1227

Mr Merv Geddes  
Secretary  
Gippsland Resource Group Inc.  
2/6 Chestnut Avenue  
MORWELL 3840

*Merv*

Dear Mr Geddes,

Thank you for your letter to the Premier regarding higher education in Gippsland. As the matters raised fall within my portfolio responsibilities, I am responding to the issues raised.

From 1 January 2014, Monash University and the University of Ballarat (UB) will join forces to form an expanded, regionally-focussed university in Gippsland. As you would be aware, the Victorian Government has been supportive of the partnership as it is consistent with the Victorian Government's commitment to supporting the tertiary education needs of the Gippsland region.

To reflect its expanded regional focus, UB will change its name to Federation University Australia from 1 January 2014. Federation University will have seven campuses across Western, Central and Eastern Victoria with over 21,000 domestic and 5,000 international students.

The University's presence in Churchill will allow Monash University to retain its research presence in the Gippsland region and its Gippsland Medical School. In addition, the expanded university will offer a range of new courses from 2014 including:

- Bachelor of Information Technology
- Bachelor of Business (Finance and Investment)
- Master of Professional Accounting, and
- Master of Geomechanics and Geohydrology.

Significantly, Federation University's presence in Churchill presents an opportunity to facilitate more pathways for the region's students to go from vocational training to university, particularly in collaboration with the region's TAFE institutes, GippsTAFE and Advance TAFE and other training providers.





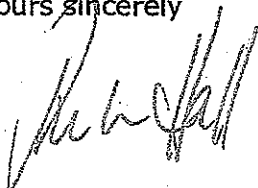
I have attached a copy of the Gippsland campus course guide for 2014 which details the breadth of courses available to students in the region.

To achieve this positive outcome, the universities adopted an open and consultative approach which was positively influenced by the contribution of engaged stakeholders. The universities have maintained dedicated sections of their websites that are updated regularly with current information for students, staff and the broader community.

I would encourage the Gippsland Resource Group to support Gippsland's two universities during their transition period, and beyond, as a demonstration of its commitment to improving access to tertiary education in Gippsland.

If you would like further information you may contact Ms Marianne Lourey, Project Executive Director, TAFE Transition Taskforce, Higher Education and Skills Group, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development, on 9637 2496 or by email: [lourey.marianne.e@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:lourey.marianne.e@edumail.vic.gov.au).

Yours sincerely



**The Hon. Peter Hall, MLC**  
**Minister for Higher Education and Skills**  
**Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession**

30/9/2013

Encl.

Rec'd 2/10/13

The Hon. Peter Hall MLC  
Minister for Higher Education and Skills  
Minister Responsible for the Teaching Profession  
2 Treasury Place  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

10<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**RE: Monash University Churchill**  
**Your Letter : HEP1227 30/9/2013 refers**

Dear Peter

I refer to the above letter and advise our severe disappointment that our Premier was not prepared to respond to decisions he made when coming into office.

Gippsland Resource Group became Incorporated on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007, because it was felt at the time that Gippsland was not receiving the full benefit of its vast assets. This serious situation has not changed; it has got worse with the election of your government; for example water prices, utility costs & fuel.

The Nationals have been espousing the benefits of supporting locals and yet are prepared to vest the assets of our University to an Un-ranked University in Ballarat.

A letter from the Monash University of Gippsland Advisory Council's Chairperson highlights the deceit that your Government has practiced on our community. As it was not made available to Latrobe City Councillors despite it apparently being carbon copied to the Mayor.

One of my personal occupations during about 40 years employment in the Latrobe Valley including all the Latrobe Valley Power Stations was as a Purchasing Officer, I enclose the following.

1. Copy of founder Member Certificate CIPS Australia 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005
2. Support letter CIPS Australia Managing Director.

I draw your attention to an article in the Age on Wednesday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013  
"Department Awards \$1mil TAFE contract without tender"

While there may be some reason for appointing Ms Lourey to look at TAFE reform. The methods taken to achieve this objective, the cost to the taxpayers and the lack of purchasing ethics is appalling.

The last paragraph of your letter suggests that if we require further information to contact Ms Lourey, one of her responsibilities appears to be higher education.

In relation to the hostile takeover of Monash University, what expertise does Ms Lourey have in Higher Education and why was local (Gippsland) experience not sought. It is available!

G.R.G. would request a copy of the brief and the contract amount awarded to Ms Lourey and her firm and when that tender was advertised.

Peter, it is obvious that the takeover does not have community support and should be abandoned for a variety of reasons. Scant resources would be better utilised to ensure that Monash University lives up to its obligations contained in its 2009 Charter.

An article in the Latrobe Valley Express of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2013 " Core Business Differences", suggests that there were other reasons for the takeover of Monash by Ballarat. The backgrounds of Richard Bolt and Marianne Lourey were in the Department of Primary Industry. What relevance is this to Higher Education?

As you can see you have given no reasons for G.R.G. to support your absurd proposal, we can't until the information required is received. This will be a priority item at our next meeting.

We can't see International students flocking to "Fed Uni", either, when they would be able to get the same sub standard degrees at the University of Calcutta (no disrespect intended).

We await your expedient response  
Yours Sincerely

Merv Geddes  
Secretary  
Gippsland Resource Group Inc.

# Peter Hall MLC

Member for Eastern Victoria Region | The Nationals Leader in the Legislative Council | Minister for Higher Education & Skills  
Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

Cr Christine Sindt  
Latrobe City Council  
P.O. Box 264  
MORWELL VIC 3840

Dear Christine,

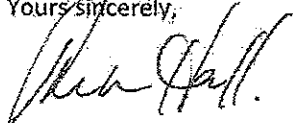
Acts of Parliament commonly assign powers to people or governing bodies to do certain things. The Local Government Act assigns powers to Latrobe Council and the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 gives the relevant Minister certain powers. One of those relevant powers which currently I hold as Minister is a requirement for me to approve a University asset transfer when the value of that transfer exceeds \$5m. In making that decision I consider the view of the university, the advice of my department and the broader interests of Victoria. In respect to the transfer of Monash's assets at Churchill to the University of Ballarat, my decision to approve the transfer was guided by the very clear wish of the Victorian Parliament that this should occur as well as the strong local community support for the proposal. I fully expect you would argue that many were not in favour of the change in local higher education provider, but I believe there were many more that did support it.

For a full account of the assets and liabilities that have been transferred you will need to seek that information from the universities. That information is the subject of agreement between the universities and it is not for me to make public what may be material of some commercial confidentiality.

This response follows Russell Northe's conversation with me following his receipt of your email of November 19<sup>th</sup>.

It should be regarded as a joint response from us both.

Yours sincerely,



PETER HALL MLC

## LATROBE CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

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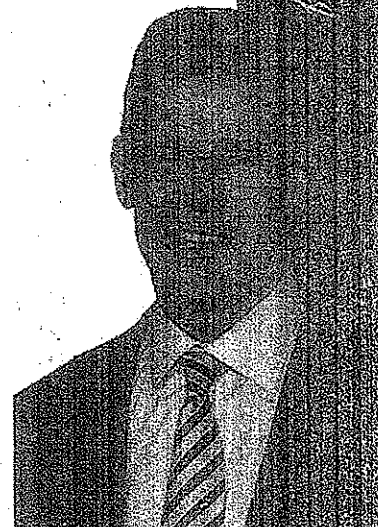
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for National Victoria



**The Hon. Peter Hall, MLC**

Minister for Higher Education and Skills  
Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession

2 Treasury Place  
East Melbourne, Victoria 3002  
Telephone: +61 3 9637 3300  
Facsimile: +61 3 9637 2800

HEP 1285

GPO Box 436  
Melbourne, Victoria 3001

Mr Merv Geddes  
Secretary  
Gippsland Resource Group Inc  
2/6 Chestnut Ave  
MORWELL 3840

*Merv*  
Dear Mr Geddes

Thank you for your letter of 10 October regarding Monash University Churchill and making comment on other processes within DEECD.

While I am well aware of your opposition to changes that have occurred at Monash Churchill, the views that I have received across the Gippsland community have indicated overwhelming support. Further, the Parliament also gave unanimous support for the change. Without seeking to argue or debate every aspect of the change, I am confident that a provider committed to meeting the higher education needs of the region will serve us far better than one whose major focus was elsewhere.

In regards to your comments about the department engaging a company to assist with the implementation of the recommendations of the TAFE Reform Panel, this matter has been raised by the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee of the Parliament. The debate on this and further correspondence from the Department Secretary are on the Committee's website for all to see.

In regards to your reflection on the experience of senior staff of the department, I do not share your view. I believe I am well served by very capable and knowledgeable people who exercise their duties of the public service with great integrity.

Yours sincerely

**The Hon. Peter Hall, MLC**  
**Minister for Higher Education and Skills**  
**Minister responsible for the Teaching Profession**

22/11/2013



**Company and water polo** - Samuel Vestey, Minister of the Horse, who arrived to stay at Government House. The Governor and Mrs Chernomy attended the 2013 Cox Plate at Moonee Valley.

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**THE AGE**

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"Government is increasingly providing services through the private sector. If the Auditor-General doesn't have these powers, we don't know what rots might be occurring."

She said there was no independent scrutiny of projects delivered through public-private partnerships, such as the \$500 million Ravenhall Prison.

# Watchdog to probe TAFE deal done without tender

**Exclusive**  
Richard Baker  
Nick McKenzie

The Ombudsman is to investigate a contentious decision by Victoria's top education bureaucrat to pay a former colleague's company \$1 million to oversee TAFE reforms.

George Brouwer has written to Higher Education and Skills Minister Peter Hall to advise him of his investigation into Richard Bolt's hiring of his former primary industries colleague, Marianne Lourey, without a competitive tender process.

After the Coalition government slashed TAFE budgets, Mr Bolt last year used his special powers to override the state's purchasing guidelines to directly engage Ms Lourey to replace a mid-level public servant to lead the TAFE reform taskforce. Ms Lourey was hired through her company, ACIL Allen, of which she is a director, at a cost of almost \$1 million.

A former energy bureaucrat, Ms

for 2018-14.

The state financial watchdog has been pushing for "follow the dollar" powers for four years, with calls becoming more urgent as the government finances more projects through public-private partnerships and outsourcing services to the private sector.

A 2010 parliamentary inquiry into the Audit Act recommended

to extensive public and private data, including random and targeted drug tests, positive result rates, seizure statistics, and prison capacity as part of his latest audit on drugs in prisons.

The value of public-private partnerships in Victoria is anticipated to rise from \$3 billion in 2012 to \$7.9 billion in 2013.

[nennieta.cook@fairfaxmedia.com.au](mailto:nennieta.cook@fairfaxmedia.com.au)

# A Sweet

**Robert Upe**  
Tourism and Travel Writer

Melbourne's Adelphi Hotel, with its glass-bottom swimming pool partially jutting out over Flinders Lane, has quietly re-opened after closing this year because of financial difficulties with the Australian Tax Office.

With new owners, the 34-room boutique property has had a makeover and been re-invented as the world's only "dessert-themed" hotel.

The new-look five-star Adelphi started taking guests two weeks ago and its intimate 40-seat dessert restaurant and bar, Om Nom, opens for sweet tooth on Monday.

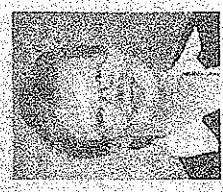
The two-hatted Eward restaurant, which *The Age Good Food*

# Abbott's

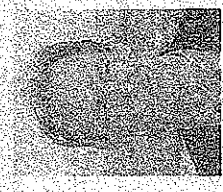
**David Wroe**  
Foreign Affairs Correspondent

Tony Abbott's use of a *Washington Post* interview to brand his Labor predecessors as "wacko" and "embarrassing" could set back his working relationship with the Obama White House, a leading US commentator says.

Norman Ornstein, an author and political scientist with the right-leaning American Enterprise



Marianne Lourey



Richard Bolt

Lourey had no experience in the education sector.

Fairfax Media can also reveal that the education department's deputy secretary, Kym Peake, has awarded her former employer, KPMG, contracts worth almost \$500,000 to work on TAFE reform.

In one case, Ms Peake gave a \$200,000 contract to KPMG to organise "ministerial roundtables" on TAFE issues without going to public tender. Ms Peake was formerly the head of public sector governance at KPMG.

Documents show KPMG was awarded another \$400,000 contract last year by another education department bureaucrat for

work on the TAFE reform project.

Mr Brouwer's probe comes in response to a request from opposition skills spokesman Steve Herbert, who has again written to the Ombudsman to urge him to examine why the latest Department of Education and Early Childhood Development annual report states there are "no contractors with management responsibilities" despite Ms Lourey being listed as "Project Executive Director" of the TAFE Transition Taskforce.

In an organisational chart in the report, Ms Lourey is listed alongside several other executive directors who are all public servants. The report does not disclose the value of contracts awarded to Ms Lourey's company.

In a letter to the Public Accounts and Estimates Committee this year, Mr Bolt justified not putting the TAFE reform contract out to public tender by stating that Ms Lourey had the appropriate skills and could start work almost immediately.

THE AGE 28/10/13

## **Talks underway for proposed 'super TAFE'**

Updated Wed 8 Aug 2012, 7:19am AEST

**The University of Ballarat is in discussions with six regional TAFE institutes to create a super TAFE.**

The university and TAFE institutes including Bendigo, Wodonga, Sunraysia and Gippsland have received Federal Government funding to explore whether they could work together to teach certain courses.

The new group would be called the Menzies Alliance and would cover about 80 per cent of regional Victoria starting next year.

University Vice Chancellor, Professor David Battersby, says State Government funding cuts have accelerated the project, but did not prompt it.

He says teaming up to deliver TAFE courses could improve education services in regional Victoria.

"We've got a new environment now with respect to TAFE delivery in Victoria," he said.

"We are in a climate now where it's all about partnership and collaboration, and particularly I think in regional Victoria, because in many ways by acting collectively with us partnering with TAFE institutes, I think we're able to deliver more effectively to the various regions that we serve."

The head of Advance TAFE in Gippsland, Peter Heilbuth, is playing down the idea, saying the new agreement would only be an extension of the relationship it already has with Ballarat.

"We have had to close down some of our outreach centres and I think that there's a possibility that we could use technology more creatively, to deliver training into those small remote areas," he said.

**Topics:** [education](#), [adult-education](#), [community-education](#), [education-collaborative-projects](#), [university-and-further-education](#), [bendigo-3550](#), [ballarat-3350](#), [wodonga-3690](#), [mildura-3500](#), [sale-3850](#)

First posted Tue 7 Aug 2012, 10:17am AEST

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-08-07/talks-underway-for-proposed-super-tafe/4181886>

## **Ballarat University proposes 'super TAFE' for regional Victoria**

By Jarrod Watt (Multiplatform editor, Victoria) 7 August, 2012 2:26PM AEST

The University of Ballarat's vice-chancellor announces the formation of 'the Menzies Alliance' to share resources among Sunraysia, Gippsland, Wodonga, Bendigo and Ballarat TAFE colleges that have been hit hard with State Government funding cuts. Hear how University of Ballarat vice chancellor David Battersby thinks it will work.

Professor David Battersby, vice-chancellor of the University of Ballarat, is proposing a new umbrella group, 'The Menzies Alliance', to bring together six regional institutes and their 28 different campuses to consolidate VET education in Victoria, based on the 'Star Alliance' model used by airlines.

"In some ways it's already in place now, because we've been given a grant of \$25 million by the Commonwealth Government to work in close partnership with six regional TAFE institutes, and that's

provided us with a good platform, and that platform is about the joint delivery of University of Ballarat degree programs through the TAFE institutes, so it's not too far removed then to look at the delivery of vocational education and training programs through that partnership arrangement."

He says the State Government is providing minimal funding to the group, despite its very public slashing of funding to vocational education in Victoria.

"The State is involved because additional to the funding we've got from the Commonwealth Government, the State have contributed about \$3m to the TAFE institutes."

Professor Battersby denies this move will create political chaos within the different institutes, saying this is a new opportunity.

"I take the view that this, in many ways, is a win-win situation. We've got a new environment with respect to TAFE delivery in Victoria, and we are in a climate now where it's all about partnership and collaboration and in particular in regional Victoria, because in many ways by acting collectively with us partnering TAFE institutes I think we're able to deliver more effectively to the various communities and regions we serve around regional Victoria," he says.

He agrees the idea to bring together the state's regional TAFEs has been pushed forward in the wake of the Baillieu Government's massive cuts to VET education in the 2012 budget

"Yes it has been certainly accelerated [by the cuts]. It has always been our view that the partnership which has been in place for a little while now might be extended, and I think the decisions taken by the State budget in May have accelerated it. One of the good things that's come out of the adversity around the VET funding cuts has been looking for opportunities and taking advantage of those," he says.

### **The Star Alliance model for regional TAFE institutes**

Battersby proposes the Menzies Alliance would operate much like the umbrella group used by airlines, with specific costs borne by each institution.

"The proposal at the moment is each of the institutions would come together to form an affiliation, much like the airline industry and the Star Alliance, where the collective good of a whole group of airlines come together... at the end of the day the respective TAFE institutes and the university would retain their autonomy, so they would be responsible for their finances for their human resources, industrial relations, their capital assets and so on - but what we should do would be come together to look at how we could meet collectively the needs of students for our various regions."

He denies there will be any pooling of budgets, based on the differences in State and Federal funding for education.

"In fact it's too difficult; at the TAFE institutes are the responsibility of the State Government and the universities are in many ways a Commonwealth entity... but I think at the end of the day we should look ahead and see the possibility that at some in the future, out of this might arise a regional university for Victoria."

Battersby says he cannot name which courses might be saved by this alliance, and does not specifically mention how courses would be delivered remotely to students in campuses ranging from Mildura, Ararat and Warrnambool in the west of the state to Sale and Wodonga in the east.



"For instance in some of the areas of business, horticulture, agriculture, the racing industry and so on, individual institutes probably don't have a critical mass of students now given the change of subsidies, but collectively, around the state we could garner and harness a much larger group of students," he says.

"In terms of delivery, we're already pioneering some really innovative delivery mechanisms with the partnership with the TAFE institutes; what it basically means is we don't want to dislocate students from their own regions, so one or other of the TAFE institutes for instance may take a lead on racing courses; the others would contribute, they would use their campuses, their facilities, their IT infrastructure, to enable these programs to be delivered in local communities."

### **Resistance is useless to the changes to TAFE funding**

The university vice-chancellor says the University of Ballarat is moving from its announcement of staff and course cuts earlier this year.

"To this point we've got to the stage... we've been through a voluntary redundancy process, and we went for that firstly... we're now in the process of concluding that... I think there's been a general understanding that in fact with the changes in funding and new ways of delivering VET we do have to make these changes. I recognise there's been a lot of protests around this, but in this day and age we need to move ahead."

He says despite protests across the State, he does not believe there is any going back on the massive cuts made by the Baillieu government.

"The Government has made it very clear that this is a budget decision, they're sticking to it; I recognise the rights of folk, our staff, our students and others to protest this... but at the end of the day we are funded through Government mechanisms..."

Professor Battersby says the role of public institutions will not, on the whole, be picked up by private operators, as the same supply and demand factors affect both sectors of education in regional Victoria.

"Whether you are a private provider or a public institution like the University of Ballarat, there are thin markets in regional Victoria - unlike Melbourne, where true market forces operate, we only have what we would call 'quasi-markets' in regional Victoria, so the going can be tough for private providers as it is for public institutions," he says.

"One of the benefits of public institutions in regional Victoria is they have presence, and they have history and legacy and they exist for the public good."

Professor Battersby and the Menzies Alliance are due to take their proposal to Premier Baillieu next month.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/08/07/3562369.htm>

# **Latrobe Valley community vow to fight TAFE funding cuts**

By Rhiana Whitson (ABC Gippsland) 27 June, 2012 10:34AM AEST

**A Latrobe Valley community action group has been formed to fight against state government cuts to TAFE.**

About 200 people attended a community forum on the impact of TAFE funding cuts at Latrobe City Council offices.

The group, made up of current and former TAFE employees, Gippsland Trades and Labour Council, unions and the general public will lobby the state government to reverse funding cuts to TAFE.

Speakers included David Williams, Victorian TAFE Association chief executive, Joanne Stringer, Deputy President of GippsTAFE board, representatives from the NTEU and AEU and students.

Mr Williams says the community has about four months to convince the state government to reverse the changes.

Higher Education Minister and Member for Eastern region Victoria Peter Hall says the TAFE funding system is unsustainable, he told ABC Mornings program in May.

But Mr Williams refuted those claims.

GippsTAFE has lost \$10 million of state government funding, around a third of its budget.

32 staff have been made redundant, with more job losses expected to be announced within the next month.

About 60 courses have been cut.

School fees for many other courses have also been raised.

Peter Whitley, GippsTAFE chief executive, says the institution will continue to lobby the state government.

"This is about our community; this is about the heart and soul of regional Australia..."

Gippsland's other major TAFE provider, Advance TAFE announced it will cut 32 jobs and close eight of its smaller facilities, as a result of changes to state government funding of TAFEs.

It will also cut 36 from the 215 currently taught at Advance TAFE.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2012/06/27/3533833.htm?site=ballarat>

## **TAFE college merger on the table for discussion**

By Celine Foenander 4 December, 2013 12:00PM AEDT

**The future of TAFE colleges across Gippsland is on a knife-edge with mergers or stronger collaboration the focus of talks.**

The CEO of Advance TAFE, Shaun McDonagh today confirmed his institution and GippsTAFE are exploring ways to work together to ensure vocational education remains relevant and viable in the future.

Also included in the talks are Chisholm Institute which has a campus in Wonthaggi and the newly created Federation University which will take over Monash University's Churchill campus from January.

Mr McDonagh says all options are on the table for discussion and did not rule out a merger between the colleges.

"All options will be considered, whatever the structure, partnership, collaboration, affiliation - use any label you wish, they are all under consideration," he says.

The idea of a 'super TAFE' in Gippsland was flagged last August when the University of Ballarat revealed it was speaking with TAFE colleges across the state to form a partnership under a model dubbed the 'Menzies Alliance'.

The idea of amalgamating Advance TAFE, GippsTAFE and Chisholm was also submitted to the Victorian Government last year and formed part of a report investigating what changes colleges would have to make to remain viable.

"Advance TAFE, GippsTAFE and Chisholm Institute are certainly looking at what partnership and arrangement would best serve our respective stakeholders and also looking at options in terms of Federation University and what's happening with the Churchill campus and their growth and aspirations," Mr McDonagh says.

The boards of the TAFE colleges are expected to have formulated a preferred option for merger or partnerships by January.

<http://www.abc.net.au/local/stories/2013/12/04/3904769.htm>

## **Latest University And Further Education stories on ABC Online**

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