

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, VICTORIA

BENDIGO CENTRE

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DISTRICT & REGIONAL OFFICES AND  
REGIONAL VETERINARY LABORATORY  
MIDLAND HIGHWAY  
EPSOM

10th October, 1977

Mr. M. Jackman,  
Secretary,  
C.E.P.A.,  
SOUTH BENDIGO BRANCH.

Re: District Liaison Committee

Department of Agriculture - Bendigo

Dear Sir,

My apologies for failing to get out a short letter of explanation before this. Such a letter to the members of the original deputation will now be sent.

During August, 2 meetings were held between representatives of this office, the C.E.P.A. and the V.F.U.. Considerable progress was made during ~~these~~ meetings, including a decision to form a District Liaison Committee.

The objectives and terms of reference for such a committee were drafted as follows:

1. To make the Department aware of the needs of the community - with regard to research, extension and service.
2. To make the Community aware of the Department's work, role and function. To generally assist with improving Public Relations.
3. To discuss the practicability of, and make progress reports on current Departmental work.
4. To assist with the organization etc. of district extension activities - including the dissemination of information and discussion on improving methods.
5. To make State and Local Government representatives/bodies aware of the agricultural and service needs of the local Bendigo district community.

Note: It is pointed out here, that although the Committee may discuss ways of improving the overall service - it is not to be a vehicle for dealing with specific complaints. If individuals or producer organizations have such complaints these can be made direct to the O.I.C./R.V.L. (Dr. Pass) or Senior District Officer (B. McConchie).

The Committee is to consist of approximately 15 members

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The Committee is to consist of approximately 15 members and to be:-

(i) representative of industry and production groups or types-not of producer organizations.

(ii) appointed at the discretion of the Senior District Officer

To assist me in the formation of the Committee - a number of names have been submitted by members of the deputation,

A number of other aspects, eg. regularity of meetings, times, etc. will be items for the Liaison Committee itself to discuss and decide,

Now the reasons for the delay. Although a date was set at the 2nd meeting (mid September) - I should not have accepted this. The formation of the Committee, although important, was new and not urgent - and therefore had to be considered in relation to existing commitments. The selection of committee members is an important job - and one which I wish to do through personal interview. Consequently I am still slowly working through the suggested names.

At the moment I am aiming towards mid November for the inaugural meeting.

Thanks for your continuing interest.

Yours faithfully,

Ben J. McConchie,  
Senior District Officer.

PS

The forestry industry / forestry producers will have @ least 2 representatives. The CEPA branches can liaise directly with these Dept. re points for discussion by the Liaison Ctee.

*BJM: 1/6*