



**The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP**

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**Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources  
Leader of The Nationals  
Federal Member for New England**

Ref: MC17-001658

10 MAY 2017

Mr Mark Schweikert  
Chairman  
Regional Development Australia Southern Inland

Via email: [chairman@rdasi.org.au](mailto:chairman@rdasi.org.au)

Dear Mr Schweikert *Mark,*

Thank you for your email of 24 February 2017 providing a copy of Regional Development Australia (RDA) Southern Inland's Towards a new wool selling future in NSW report exploring the opportunity for relocating wool sales from Yennora to a regional location, such as Goulburn. I regret the delay in responding.

I appreciate RDA Southern Inland commissioning this research to quantify the benefits of relocating wool sales from Yennora to a regional area. I am a strong supporter of Australia's wool industry, which is a profitable, vibrant industry that supports the livelihoods of many Australians, particularly in rural communities. It has a strong reputation, both domestically and internationally, as a high quality and reliable source of natural fibre.

While I am aware the relocation of the wool selling centre is a commercial decision among individual brokers and the Australian wool industry, I am happy to hear that a wide range of wool industry stakeholders were consulted in the preparation of the report. This level of engagement reflects the importance of the proposal to the industry.

The Australian Government is committed to boosting jobs and investing in rural and regional Australia, including through targeted decentralisation. Regional Australia deserves its fair share of government services and opportunities; and that includes being able to access quality public sector careers just as much as any capital city.

That is why we are moving the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority to Armidale; the Grains Research and Development Corporation (RDC) has opened offices in Toowoomba, Dubbo, Adelaide, and Perth; the Rural Industries RDC has moved to Wagga Wagga; and the Murray-Darling Basin Authority is opening offices in Toowoomba, Albury-Wodonga and Adelaide.

I wish you all the best for your future engagement with the Australian wool industry about the opportunity to relocate the wool selling centre to a regional location. I am always pleased to hear about initiatives that may boost jobs growth, strengthen communities in regional areas and contribute to savings that increase returns at the farm gate.  
Thank you again for raising this matter with me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Joyce', written in a cursive style.

Barnaby Joyce MP