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Calls for AgForce to get keys

MPs slam college closures

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FEDERAL Minister for
Agriculture David

Littleproud has supported
calls for the Queensland
Government to hand the
keys to Longreach and
Emerald agricultural
colleges over to the farm
industry.

“AgForce has called for
the keys to be handed over,
believing it could be an
opportunity to reform and
modernise education and
skills available to rural
Queenslanders,” Mr
Littleproud said.

“While the rest of the
country is trying to build up
these drought-ravaged,
communities the State
Government is trying to tear
them down.

“The Queensland
Government needs to hand
the keys to the colleges back
to people who care about
agriculture and our food
supply.

“Our farmers grow our
food and without
agricultural colleges we
don’t have the next
generation coming through
to grow that food.

“Brisbane folk eat the food

we grow them out here in
country Queensland and we
need them to fight for us on
this one.”

Federal Member for Flynn
Ken O’Dowd has echoed
these sentiments.

“The announcement
could not have come at a
worse time, with drought,
water shortage effecting
both Emerald and
Longreach.” Mr O’Dowd
said.

“Both colleges have
worked very well in the past,
providing training and
educating of our future
generations of passionate
farmers, horticulturists and
pastoralists.”

AgForce general
president Georgie Somerset
said the colleges were too
important to agriculture
and to the many rural
and regional communities
that depended on
agriculture to allow them
to be axed.

“We believe these are
unique, irreplaceable assets
and we are currently
engaging with organisations
and community groups
around the state to elicit
their support and ideas to
save them,” Mrs Somerset

said.

“The response so far has
been overwhelmingly in
favour of an industry-led
solution.

“AgForce’s plan is to
overhaul these institutions
and the services they offer
to form the backbone of a
comprehensive,
future-looking rural
research and education

system that offers benefits
beyond agriculture.”

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— Georgie Somerset



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**AgForce general president
Georgie Somerset.**



CALL: David Littleproud and Ken O'Dowd want the State Government to give colleges' keys to AgForce. PHOTO: MATT TAYLOR