



Received:.....	8 / 8 / 14.....
Physical ID.....	PREM14D 04091.....
File No.....	PREM14 / 0049.....
Action Officer.....	Playford Memorial Trust - BT.....
Draft Due.....	22 / 8 / 14.....
Previous Corres.....

The Hon Jay Weatherill MP,
Premier of South Australia,
GPO Box 2343,
Adelaide, SA 5001.

Dear Premier,

In your letter of 8 July (PREM14D03458) concerning the abolition of Boards, you offered us the opportunity to put a case as to why the Board of the Playford Memorial Trust ("the Trust") should be exempt from being abolished. We now do so.

The Trust was established in 1983 to honour Sir Thomas Playford, the State's longest serving Premier, and it provides scholarships to enable high-achieving South Australian TAFE and university students and graduates to pursue studies and research. The objective is to develop the research and skills base of South Australia and to advance economic developments of strategic importance to our State. We believe that these activities are worthy of continuing the support which successive governments have given to the Trust.

Later in this letter we will provide brief details of the activities of the Trust. However we should first mention that there are legal impediments to the abolition of the Trust or its Board.

The Trust is constituted under the *Associations Incorporation Act* as is the Board. The Board administers a perpetual trust established by a formal deed dated 26 September 1983, executed by the then Premier John Bannon on behalf of the government

TRUSTEES

Hon. Dean Brown AO
CHAIRMAN
Hon. Don Hopgood AO
DEPUTY CHAIRMAN
Professor Don Bursill AM
Susie Herzberg
Keith Yates
Dean Standish
PUBLIC OFFICER
Danny Watson
Dr Kate Delaporte
Professor David Day
Helen Nankivell
Hon Robert Lawson RFD QC

and a number of citizens including former Premier Des Corcoran. The Trust cannot be dissolved by mere administrative fiat or by Ministerial decision. To attempt to dissolve a trust of this kind by some legislative means would be fraught with difficulty.

The Trust and its Board are active. In 2014-15, we expect to provide more than \$230,000 in scholarships. About half these funds are donated by companies who have formed a partnership with the Trust to fund scholarships on an annual basis. It is the Board members who use their personal contacts to identify suitable companies and negotiate the partnership agreements and cooperative arrangements with universities and other educational institutions. It is doubtful whether these companies and other private donors would be as supportive if the Trust were seen to be an arm of government.

The Board of the Trust is not a mere advisory body duplicating the work of a government department. Its members have diverse skills and wide experience. They personally undertake the work of the Trust without remuneration or monetary reward. Without the Board the Trust would cease to function unless a number of persons were employed to undertake the work now done by Board members. This would necessarily reduce the funds available for scholarships. As you are aware, the Trust has requested the appointment of two new Board members because the work load of existing members has increased significantly as the scope of the scholarships has increased greatly.

We acknowledge with gratitude the financial support which your government and all preceding governments have given the Trust and also the invaluable secretarial assistance provided to the Trust through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Without that assistance the number of scholarships awarded would have to be reduced. In the last four years the Trust has provided support to well in excess of 100 outstanding young South Australians.

We request that for the sake of maintaining the excellent outcome of the scholarship scheme and its potential economic benefit to South Australia, you approve of the continuation of the Playford Memorial Trust Board.

Yours sincerely,



Dean Brown,
Chairman,
Playford Memorial Trust Inc



Don Hopgood,
Deputy Chairman

6th August 2014.

PREM14D04091



Hon Jay Weatherill MP
Premier of South Australia

Hon Dean Brown
Chairman
Hon Don Hopgood
Deputy Chairman
Playford Memorial Trust Inc
GPO Box 2343
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Mr Brown and Mr Hopgood

Thank you for your letter of 6 August 2014 to the Premier of South Australia, the Hon Jay Weatherill MP, about the Boards and Committees reform.

Your letter is currently receiving attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jay Weatherill", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Premier's Correspondence Unit
Office of the Premier**

8 August 2014