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To Whom It May Concern

Re: Robert Chewying

Robert Chewying, through his business ChewYing Lawn & Horticulture, has been engaged by Southern Water Services, a company under the jurisdiction of Shoalhaven City Council since October 2004.

Robert was tasked with managing a 10ha trial tea tree site utilising reclaimed water as an irrigation source adjacent to the Bomaderry wastewater treatment plant. His engagement followed a difficult period of establishment using other horticultural contractors. The moment Robert arrived on the site, he was instrumental in invigorating me as the project manager, with a breath of fresh air. The difficulties of the previous years I had experienced managing this project, were immediately swept away.

Robert and his team have been able to deal with any challenge that the site presented and this has all been achieved with a minimum of fuss. In short, I could not have wished for a more reliable and easy going contractor to continue on from the previous challenging contractor relationships.

But my story with Robert does not end specifically with the horticultural tasks associated with the management of the tea tree site, as Robert's vision continues to be far greater than these tasks at hand.

First & foremost in Robert's mind is his social conscience as he is always looking to provide opportunities to others who are not blessed with the head start to a working life that is often taken for granted. Consequently, the tea tree site has become a training ground where Robert is able to foster and mentor others so that they can work towards realizing their own dreams and aspirations. This is one of Robert's great strengths.

Having had a less than blessed start to his own working life, Robert realizes the difficulties that others face attempting to start working towards their own dreams and aspirations. It is a tribute to Robert that many others have now had an opportunity to get the start that all deserve, irrespective of social, ethnic and educational backgrounds.

And the story continues. Not satisfied with creating his own working model to give others a start that he so much believes in here within the Shoalhaven, Robert has been working relentlessly towards programs that will enable him

to export his model to other areas. Such is Robert's integrity in the pursuit of his vision, that he has been able to attract considerable support to fine tune his model so that it can be presented and utilized by other communities. It is Robert's aim that other communities recognize the hope and the potential that his working model can offer so that others get a real start to their lives that often falls well short of expectations.

Robert is one of those rare people with a vision beyond his own personal sphere. It extends as far as is possible, often against a tide of obstruction which he seems able to navigate whilst maintaining a most personable nature.

Robert has been able to achieve all of this to date with absolutely no government funding on any level and I believe has actually rejected offers for these opportunities as his model is squarely based in the realities of the commercial world.

I cannot more highly commend a man to be heard for his vision for other communities genuinely seeking a model that enables real long term opportunities to achieve what Robert has been able to achieve here in the Shoalhaven.

Regards,



Dave Macquart

Consultant Project Engineer
Shoalhaven Water