

... and of teaching

I MUST correct one misunderstanding in "Green studies hit by Melbourne Uni" (*The Age*, 10/8). The draft "performance review" did not state that teaching would end at the Burnley, Creswick and Dookie campuses, but echoed the school's plans that they should become "self-sustaining research campuses". Nothing prevents teaching at a research campus.

The article highlights the paradox of declining student enrolment in front-line occupations such as agriculture. Worldwide trends show that we must increase crops by 100 per cent in the next 30 years in the face of climatic variability, and increased costs of energy, fertiliser and carbon capture.

We simply can't manage to reduce such environmental impacts without a highly trained and sophisticated workforce. Yet Australian universities produce only 800 graduates for the 2000 positions available annually. We need more students willing to accept such challenges.

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<http://www.theage.com.au/opinion/letters/its-an-emergency-and-politicians-are-failing-us-20090812-ei9n.html?skin=text-only>