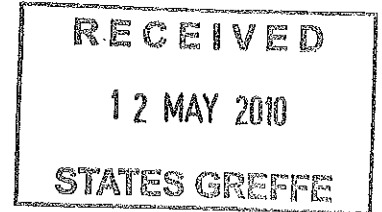


# BEAUVOIR NURSERIES (GROUVILLE) LTD.

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Deputy C. F. Labey  
Rural Economy Strategy Scrutiny Sub-Panel  
Scrutiny Office  
Morier House,  
Halkett Place  
St Helier  
8<sup>th</sup> May 2010.



Your ref : 515.18(5)

Dear Deputy

Thankyou for inviting me to comment on your review of the Rural Economy Strategy 2011-2015

I can only comment on the Glasshouse matters which would have concerned my activities in the growing world.

## 1) Performance of Rural Economy Strategy 2005-2010

This area affected me drastically! I am one of the few who still have a States Agricultural Loan for my business. The States seem to have forgotten why the States Loan system was set up.

Due to the fact that the "carpet was pulled" from under the Glasshouse industry with what little support there was, to be withdrawn. I followed the Agriculture Departments advice and converted my Glasshouse nursery into "Locally grown flowers" for the local market trade, to supply the Sandpiper group and local florist on the island. I found myself in financial trouble at the end of 2006 and there for requested a "States Loan Deferment" of payment for 2007. The system was so complicated to do so, and would have COST ME MORE than the borrowing the extra with my Bank. It was at this stage, that I lost faith in the system and decided to throw the towel in and get out of the industry.

I have worked on this nursery from 1973 up to this date and believe you me, this was a very hard decision to make, but I could not continue with the financial constraints on my business. NO HELP was forthcoming from the States at all. Thus the island is now in the situation of having to Import virtually

all the flowers consumed here in the island. Consider the Air Miles and the effect on the "local" situation.

I consider that the Rural Economy Strategy 2005-2010 has failed in my area.

## 2) Proposals for Rural Economy Strategy 2011-2015

Having studied the green paper, it is quite obvious that you have totally deserted the Glasshouse industry in its entirety.

There are only TWO references to the glasshouse industry in the whole document, and they are not very good at all.

You only talk of derelict and redundant glasshouses !

There is no positive direction for the glasshouse industry stated.

## 3) Implications of the Rural Economy Strategy 2011-2015

It appears that the states have geared this document towards the leisure side of the economy. It is my opinion that the island is too small for this to work.

If you do not a Potato grower or keep a Dairy herd, then this document has NO use to the commercial farmer or grower at all.

## 4) I have lost patience with this report !!!

To summarise my opinion of the document.

When the States of Jersey "opted" out of joining the European Market, it was stated that there would be a need to support the agricultural and growing industry of the island in the future years.

As the last of the Glasshouse units to produce flowers for a living, I have seen the mutilation of the industry over the years. Visitors to the Island just cannot believe that there are now NO CARNATIONS grown on the island. To me, I compare it to loosing the Jersey Cow ! Can you imagine it !

You have deserted the industry and I feel very sad to see the Glasshouse growers disappear from the island.

I speak from the heart and the harsh reality of the real world !

Yours sincerely

Roy N. Smith

