

Supplementary Submission 117.1 – Cessnock City Council

Questions on Notice

Mr Glen: Can I add to that? Discussions with the federal government, as far as I'm concerned as the council's general manager, are very few and far between. I suppose in recent times we've been bagging the federal government, because we had the freeze of the FAG money, for example, and we're so dependent on that money – this is the return of the GST. But as for working together, we do very little. Sure, we get on with our local federal member, of course, but as two levels of government we have very, very little interaction at all.

Ms McGOWAN: I'm conscious that we're well and truly over time and we have to stop, but maybe you could think about what would work better? I think the intention of the Regional Development Australia structure was that that would be the mechanism for making that happen. I'm assuming that has not worked –

Mr Glen: No.

Ms McGOWAN: so perhaps you'd like to take on notice to consider it and get back in touch with us so that if we could make a recommendation on how local government could have a better relationship with the Commonwealth government what would work for you in ideal circumstances? We would be very grateful.

Mr Glen: Sure.

Councillor Pynsent: We will take that on notice.

In response to the question “How can the Federal Government work closer with Local Government?” that we have taken on notice I provide the following:

The relationship between the RDA and council can be strengthened by the following means:

- Regular meetings with the Council and with senior Council staff – this would provide the RDA an opportunity to introduce, discuss and develop RDA strategies
- Inform councils of the various federal funding and grant programs that the RDA would provide assistance in achieving at the Local Government level
- Incorporating the strategies identified in the council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework into the strategies of the RDA strategies.

Unfortunately I have not been able to provide a fuller response, however I hope that the information above provides some clarity.

Should you seek further information, please do not hesitate to contact me

Regards

Stephen Glen | General Manager
Cessnock City Council