



The Gold Coast & Region  
Area Consultative Committee Inc

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The Secretary  
The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional  
Development and Local Government  
House of Representatives  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Summary of views of the Gold Coast and Region Area Consultative Committee Inc.

***Provide advice on future funding of Regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.***

- Local priorities need to align with Local and State Government agendas and strategic plans.
- Funding applications to identify with regional needs.
- Continue the "3 level" of Government funding concept. This strengthens good inter-Government staff relationships and communication. This has also been a proven and known concept over past years.

***Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.***

- Co location and/or dedicated links with other Federal Government funding programs.
- Concentrate on the Local Government relationship and contacts as they have in depth experience and broader knowledge of the region.
- Do not waste current Departmental electronic E grants / Trax infrastructure. Adapt the current tools to the new function.
- Ensure a sensible level of assessment procedures for funding applications. Give the RDA more responsibility for funding approvals. Consider a ceiling dollar amount which RDA can approve without further Government assessment.
- Better utilise the expertise within the adjoining RDA organisations, eg: Marketing specialist or Workshop facilitation by one RDA for others in their region.
- Ensure and maintain a timely decision process thus enabling efficient timing and managing of projects.

***Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the ANAO report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.***

- Consider independent assessment of projects. ie truly non political
- Need honest published detail for rejected submissions.
- The RDA to have interest and "ownership" of approved projects.
- Consistent clear guidelines.

We look forward to receiving your final recommendations

Yours faithfully

Murray da Almeida  
Chair GCRACC

An Australian Government Initiative



ACCs

The Australian Government's  
Regional Development Network