

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development and Local Government

Reference: New regional development funding program

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Australian National Audit Office

Hearing 13 October 2008

Submission No:	49.1
Date Received:	27-10-08
Secretary:	<i>MC</i>

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Mr Cheesman asked:

"Back to the nine projects that the minister approved – I presume in government-held seats – what was the range of Commonwealth money associated with those projects?"

Answer:

The nine projects noted in the audit report as having been approved for Regional Partnerships Program funding by the Minister responsible for the program or the Prime Minister prior to the department undertaking an assessment of the project against the Program guidelines (see pages 74-75, Volume 2); the value of the approved funding; and the electorate in which each was located is set out in Attachment A.

For context, we also refer the Committee to the analysis set out in the audit report identifying that:

- the average Regional Partnerships grant approved over the three year period examined by ANAO was \$183 652 (page 19, Volume 1, paragraph 24); and
- applications for amounts in excess of \$1 million represented 2.6 per cent of applications on which a decision had been made as at 30 June 2006 (page 30, Volume 1, paragraph 54).

Attachment A

Project	Approved Funding (GST excl)	Electorate	Party status of electorate when funding was approved
RP00341 Beaudesert Rail	\$600 000	Forde	Liberal
RP00956 Peel Region Tourist Railway	\$845 000	Canning	Liberal
RP01055 National Centre of Mathematics, Science and Information Technology for Rural and Regional Education	\$4 500 000	New England	Independent
RP01101 Beef Australia 2006	\$2 200 000	Capricornia	ALP
RP01207 Gunnedah Grains to Ethanol	\$1 100 000	Gwydir	National
RP01300 Australian Equine and Livestock Centre	\$6 000 000	New England	Independent
RP01151 Mackay Region Science and Technology Precinct	\$8 000 000	Dawson	National
RP01803 East Gippsland Rail Trail	\$600 000	Gippsland	National
RP02546 Mayors Flood Appeal	\$50 000	Calare	Independent