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The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local  
Government  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2060  
14 July 2008

Dear Sir,

**RE: Inquiry into a new regional development funding program**

NamoiROC welcomes the opportunity to submit comments to the Committee regarding the new regional development funding program. Below are some points for consideration by the Committee.

- The past Rural Partnerships Program has been invaluable in providing funding, and supporting the needs of communities in rural and regional areas. We strongly advocate the continuation of such a program in the future.
- NamoiROC has five councils (Walcha, Tamworth, Liverpool Plains, Gunnedah and Narrabri) and the Namoi Catchment Management Authority (CMA) as members. The make-up of the membership of NamoiROC assists the regional approach to all forms of planning, funding, action and reporting.
- Regional planning, including consideration of existing and future local amenities and infrastructure needs on a broad scale, is an objective of a range of projects currently underway. These projects include the Namoi 2030 Regional Resource Strategy and Scenario Planning for Sustainable Landuse in the Namoi Catchment.
- A number of organisations are involved in regional planning and development in North West NSW. These include the following:

\* Gunnedah \* Liverpool Plains \* Narrabri \* Tamworth \* Walcha \* Namoi CMA

*Mission*

*To promote strong local government leadership, to work co-operatively for the sustainability and image of NamoiROC members and the region, and effectively advocate on agreed regional positions and priorities.*

- NamoiROC (and other groups of councils across the New England North West)
  - Namoi CMA (and Border Rivers Gwydir CMA)
  - Northern Inland Regional Development Board
  - New England North West Regional Directors and Managers Group (RCMG) co-ordinated by the Department of Premier and Cabinet
- When considering a “new” Regional Development Program it should be considered that a range of groups, such as those above, are already involved in regionally-based activity. Creating a new board and structure may create duplication and unnecessary expense to the tax payer. It is suggested that the new program could be achieved by using and involving the existing structures, and expanding these where necessary.
  - The involvement of local, state and federal governments, and inclusion of other important stakeholders in the new program is encouraged.

NamoiROC is interested in maintaining involvement in the inquiry and the development of the new program if possible.

Yours sincerely,

Katrina McDonald  
Executive Officer

**\* Gunnedah \* Liverpool Plains \* Narrabri \* Tamworth \* Walcha \*Namoi CMA**

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