



# COOMA-MONARO SHIRE COUNCIL

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday – Friday 8.35am – 5.00pm  
All correspondence to be addressed to the General Manager

Enquiries: Ross Lawley (RL:DC)  
Our Ref: IS/INF/4  
Your Ref:

25 July 2008

Standing Committee on Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development and Local Government  
P O Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

## **INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM**

Council would like to offer the following comments to your inquiry.

1. Recreation and Property facilities managed by Council are typically quite old. For instance many Olympic pools are now approaching 50 years old. They also suffer from not having specifically structured grants towards their maintenance and improvement like roads grants. Grants need to be defined specifically for each asset class.
2. As Local Government incorporates Asset Management into its infrastructure maintenance and planning, this will provide a much more objective assessment of priorities for funding. This type of assessment process should be much better utilised for determination of priorities and grants.

By using a more defined process this could also reduce the amount of resources currently used when applying for grants and simply extract the required information directly from Council's Management Plans. Currently as each grant scheme is different this requires a large amount of staff resources simply to prepare grant applications.

3. As Local Government embraces Asset Management this provides the tools to enable objective assessments of projects and even yardstick comparison between different LGA's.
4. Another resource saving is by using an Expression of Interest document as used by the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation for their Regional Sports Facilities Program.

Yours faithfully

JOHN VUCIC  
GENERAL MANAGER