

Dear Sir,

RE: Your advertisement "The Courier Mail" June 28 - 29 Page 93

Firstly I welcome the request for submissions into the the future funding of regional programs and Secondly, I am most supportive of the examination of the former Government's practices and grants under the Regional Partnerships Program. Please confirm if this review will be re-assessing the submissions made to the Senate enquiry held in 2005.

Objectives of the Regional Development Funding Programme

To provide Australian Government funding for projects within Regional areas.

Applications

Applications for Funding will be administered by a Registrar, an independent body similar to the Australian Electoral Commission, who has a specific role is to ensure the applications forwarded to the Australian Government are completed in accordance with the guidelines.

Assessment Process

There will be a Two Stage process:

Stage 1: An interview with the Registrar, who will advise the applicant on the process of lodging an application.

Stage 2: The Completed application will be approved by the Registrar, as being a properly made application, and then the application will be forward to the Australian Government for assessment.

Benchmarks for Community Development -

Definition: Community Development Projects is supportive of the Regional Council Business Plan. Successful projects will receive Regional Development Funding where a case has been established that the project has a community benefit.

Community Benefit: A project that provides an opportunity for local business growth and offers solutions to skills shortages within the district. A project which will attract new families and visitors to the district.

A Plan for Economic Growth: The Regional Development Funding Programme will only be available to Regional Areas, with a fully developed Business Plan, which proves conclusively the Regional Council has a Plan for Economic Growth.

A Plan for Growth

Professor Ian Plowman is a psychologist and social researcher with the University of Queensland, and he specialises in finding out what makes towns thrive and survive.

He says attracting creative people, or eccentrics, is the answer.

"Indeed it is. People who can think outside the square, have a different background to the majority of people, different sphere of interest, different ethnicity, different religious practices, anything, anything that makes them different gives us a richer pool of ideas that will help our towns thrive," he says.

"And unfortunately, in the majority of cases when you have a critical mass of conservative people rather than innovative people, the town will slowly die."

EACH APPLICATION MUST DEAL WITH THE FOLLOWING ISSUES

The Project Scope
The Concept
The Business Plan
The Feasibility Study
The Time Line
The Community Contribution
The Government Contribution
The Contract

I trust the above is of assistance.

Yours Faithfully

Andrew & Janet Schulz
Eidsvold Motel

