



LEETON SHIRE COUNCIL SUBMISSION 7

Preserving the Past, Enhancing the Future

ABN 59 217 957 665

23-25 Chelmsford Place, Leeton NSW 2705

Telephone: (02) 6953 2611 Facsimile: (02) 6953 3337

Email: council@leeton.nsw.gov.au Website: www.leeton.nsw.gov.au

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12 June 2008

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

Dear Sir/Madam

SUBJECT: INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAMME

I am writing to advise the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government of the importance of renewing a regional funding program aimed at enhancing community infrastructure.

The former Regional Partnerships Programme (RPP) provided funding opportunities to establish projects and infrastructure that would provide opportunities for economic and social participation and stimulate growth in regions.

Leeton Shire Council supported the Riverina Drag Racing Association in their application to the RPP to source funding to establish a regional drag racing facility. This project was assessed just prior to the November Federal Election and therefore proceeded no further although very positive indications were given by the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

The Leeton Community missed an excellent opportunity of increased tourism, economic benefits and social participation when the RPP ceased.

Regional Development Funding Programmes are necessary for regional areas to establish major projects as support from the commercial enterprise is not as prominent as it may be in metropolitan areas. Other forms of grant opportunities do not have the capacity to provide the amount of assistance that the RPP provided.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Programme

I urge the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government to make a recommendation to establish a New Regional Development Funding Program that provides an accountable application process for regional communities to achieve funding for projects that contribute to economic development and enhancing the sustainability and liveability of their region.

Yours faithfully



RW Bailey
GENERAL MANAGER

Cc Mrs Kay Hull, MP
Federal Member for Riverina
Suite 2, 11-15 Fitzmaurice Street
WAGGA WAGGA NSW 2605

