

SHIRE OF HARVEY

ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

COMMISSION 52

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Our Reference: TH:BM
Our File: GRL004
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Ms. Janet Holmes
Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
P.O. Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms. Holmes,

SHIRE OF HARVEY WESTERN AUSTRALIA, SUBMISSION FOR THE INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PARLIAMENT

The Shire of Harvey is located 140 kilometres south of Perth and is recognised as one of Western Australia's growth Councils. The Shire services eight (8) townsites and has a population of about 23,500 people and an area of approximately 1,766 square kilometres.

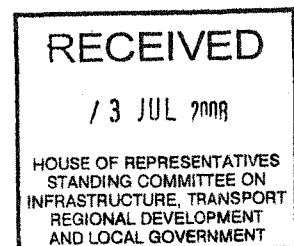
As a rapidly expanding Shire, it is important that Regional Development Funding is available to supplement a range of projects. The following points form the basis of the Shire's submission;

- The inquiry's focus should clearly identify development issues of a regional significance and facilitate policy and program approaches at the levels of nation and state. There should be significant input and consultation with Local Government Authorities on all stages of any new funding program developed. The inquiry should consider;
 - Recognition of existing regional Centres and investment in private and public infrastructure that has already been made in these Centres.
 - Ensuring residents have a clear "Sense of Place" within their community.
 - Commercial revitalisation and stimulation/economic development.
 - Promotion of industry activity.
 - Provision of institutional facilities and community services.
 - Social development, including cohesive and vibrant communities.
- RDA needs to work closely with LGAs including the Shire of Harvey, to form agreement towards consultation, assessment and on-going measurement of key economic indicators.
- RDA should promote regional economic development building on positive and proactive measures to improve;
 - Inter regional "export" generation.
 - Investment attraction.
 - Workforce capability.
 - Strategic infrastructure.
 - Capital availability.
 - Innovation.
 - Partnership between all stakeholders.

- RDA should fund projects that deliver effective use of existing town centres as a focus for activity and investment.
- Consideration needs to be given to models that encourage recurrent funding for a range of capital infrastructure and social programmes. One off funding may be adequate for a specific major project, e.g. building a Community Centre, however does not allow for ongoing costs including salaries, administration and start up costs. We would submit consideration needs to be given to a model that allows for funding over a 3-5 year period, to enable future planning, co-funding (and sourcing other funding) and sustainability.
- Communities in need should be identified and given access to priority funding. The Shire of Harvey submits that it is a growth Council with a rapidly expanding coastal corridor, and a range of planning and development challenges. It is unrealistic to adequately plan major projects into the future, having to rely on uncommitted "one off" grant funding. A more sustainable and objective programme needs to be developed with rural and remote LGAs remaining heavily dependant on grant funding.
- Collectively the establishment of improved communication and formal agreements, such as Memorandums of Understanding on major infrastructure projects, would allow Shires to adequately plan and budget projects.
- Local Governments' annual revenue is \$22 billion with 88% of this raised from its own services. More assistance on key infrastructure and capital is needed from a Federal level.
- Models of funding that encourage regional collaboration and partnerships across Local Government Authorities should be considered. Local Government Authorities need to assist this process by being innovative and by adopting continuing improve operating practices.
- Local Governments' survival is dependant on the provision of substantial additional external funding, together with affirmative action by LGAs, to improve efficiency, performance and accountability.

The Shire of Harvey has identified a range of potential urgently required projects in the coming 1-5 years which will require external funding. These include;

- Recreation grounds/ovals at Brunswick Junction, Binningup and Harvey.
- Brunswick Junction townsite redevelopment.
- Harvey Diversion Drain enhancement project.
- Dune restoration and additional parking at Binningup Beach.
- Ongoing dune restoration at Myalup Beach.
- Leschenault Recreation Park-Oval expansion.
- Yarloop Workshops.
- Yarloop townsite redevelopment.
- Major road engineering throughout the Shire.
- Binningup developments and expansion.



Yours faithfully,

CR. P.F. MONAGLE
SHIRE PRESIDENT

MICHAEL PARKER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

30th June, 2008