

Area Consultative Committee - North East Victoria

ABN 31 990 045 884

P.O. Box 2275, Shepparton, Victoria 3630

Ph: (03) 5831 1133 Fax: (03) 5831 1520 Mobile: 0419 001 678

Email: nevacc@sheppnews.com.au Website: www.nevacc.com.au

09th July 2008

The Secretary,
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry,
Transport, Regional Development and Local Government
P.O. Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Re : "Inquiry into a new regional development programme".

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached the Area Consultative Committee of North East Victoria Inc. ("NEVACC Inc")'s submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government Inquiry into a New Regional Development Programme.



Shane O'Brien
Executive Officer

for
Emeritus Professor Eric Lund AM
Chairman
NEVACC Inc.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Introduction :

The Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, the Hon Anthony Albanese MP, has asked the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local government to inquire into and report on the Australian National Audit Office's Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships programme (RPP) and make recommendations on the ways to invest funding in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure.

The **Area Consultative Committee of North East Victoria Inc.** (NEVACC) wishes to place before the Inquiry the following submission and would be pleased to have the opportunity to support this submission in person at a scheduled hearing.

Background :

The Area Consultative Committee of North East Victoria Inc. ("NEVACC") is responsible for that region that encompasses the following entire municipalities :

City of Greater Shepparton

Rural City of Wangaratta

Benalla Rural City, and

Shires of Alpine, Mansfield, Moira, Mitchell, Murrindindi and Strathbogie

and the unincorporated alpine resorts management areas of

Falls Creek, Mt Hotham, Mt Buffalo, Mt Buller, Mt Stirling and Lake Mountain

The North East Victoria region stretches approximately from the northern outskirts of Melbourne and the Yarra Ranges in the South to the Murray River in the north, and from the Campaspe River in the west to the New South Wales border / Alpine High Country in the east. The region's major centres are Shepparton, Wangaratta, Benalla and Seymour. Geographically, it is a diverse region featuring open grazing plains, rich irrigated grazing and horticultural areas, alpine snowfields and waterways.

The region is the principal food region in Australia known as the 'Clean and Green' 'Food Bowl of Australia', especially for dairy and horticultural produce and goods. Food processing, mainly dairy and fruit, accounts for half the region's turnover. Other industries of significance include dairy farming, horticulture, forestry, viticulture, livestock, manufacturing, textiles, clothing and footwear, tourism and recreational, snow / ski and retail. The dairy farming, horticulture, forestry and viticulture sectors are growth sectors with the livestock and sheep sectors in decline. However, all agricultural pursuits have been severely affected by the driest prolonged drought in history (10+ years), unbelievable prices/Ml for available irrigation water, the devastating 2002-03 and 2007 Bushfires, unseasonable frosts late in 2006 that devastated all crops across the North East, and the Ovens / King Valleys tobacco growers voted to cease their involvement in that industry. Despite this, significant investment continues in the food processing, viticulture, manufacturing and forestry sectors.

The region's population statistics have shown a dramatic growth pattern of +19.3% over 18 years, with a population growth pattern for the region of +6.4%. – future growth patterns are expected to be similar or even accelerated. Major population "explosions" have occurred and continue at Yarrawonga / Mulwala and Wallan, minor "explosions" continue at Shepparton and Wangaratta, and a major housing expansion is planned for the peri-urban area of Beveridge on the outskirts of metropolitan Melbourne. These growth regions all have accompanying infrastructure problems as building / population movements outstrips the provision of water & sewerage, public transport, roads, education, recreation and retail facilities. The population continues to age as youth are being lost to the cities where they seek employment and education.

The North East Victorian workforce statistics continue to show a steady +4.0% increase but all industries state that there is a skills shortage.

Unemployment across the region has decreased along with most Victorian regions, however there continues to be deep pockets of long term unemployed across NEV. Unemployment figures utilised by the Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative in the Goulburn Valley district indicate that Koori unemployment is still an unacceptable approximately 80%, and this is supported by the "Shepparton Regional Indigenous Community & Development Strategies" study (Dr Katrina Alford, November 2002) which states that there is a serious under-enumeration of the

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Koori population and workforce. Youth unemployment rate is lower than the State average but this is due to the continuing migration of many youth in the area to Melbourne and other regional centres to seek employment, further education or for lifestyle reasons.

The region also shows a continuing massive growth in “new wave” migration as NEV welcomes immigrants from all the Asian countries, from Iraq, Iran and Kuwait, and from the Sudan and the Congo which builds on the base of previous multi-national immigration from Europe, Middle East and Adriatic countries.

NEVACC states that a new regional development programme

- must empower local communities to seek the solutions to their own identified needs,
- must have demonstrable open, fair and accountable processes that significantly streamline or reduce the number of assessment levels and should never adopt a “one funding programme fits all parts of Australia” philosophy,
- must ensure that communities / proponents always retain “ownership” of their projects,
- must not be seen as an extremely lengthy, centralised, cumbersome, heavily-bureaucratic, lengthy multi-step assessment and decision process,
- should provide for structured partnerships between the Federal, State and Local Governments and local communities so that all projects receive maximum co-operation and leverage of funding and the endorsement of these priorities should then expedite the decision-making for community infrastructure processes,
- should seek applications for projects that are based on sound regional, sub-regional, municipal or community plans that have already identified the need for such infrastructure, and
- should retain the accepted process where on-site assistance to construct and complete regional development funding applications is provided by a local organisation that is acutely aware of what is happening in the region, what are the identified needs of the region and what is best for the region.

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Term of Reference No 1 :

“Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;”

Summary of NEVACC’s Performance with RPP :

NEVACC Members and Staff believe that previous regional funding programs and the most recent, Regional Partnership program (RPP), have all been an excellent source of funding for many communities across the North East Victoria region provided that such applications are the solution to identified local needs, are well-developed, well-researched, written to a high standard and have demonstrated multi-Government and community support.

To demonstrate this, over the four years of the RPP project, NEVACC received **575 genuine enquiries** for funding a variety of projects.

From these enquiries :

- 93 projects were fully developed and submitted to the Department for assessment (only two (2) were not recommended for funding by NEVACC)
- **53 projects were approved**
- 21 were not approved
- 19 remained unassessed at the closure of RPP
- plus 3 other projects were submitted directly to Canberra without assistance from NEVACC; after discussions with the proponents by both DoTaRS & NEVACC, these application were withdrawn as not meeting the RPP Guidelines

Departmental statistics indicate that 1 in every 5 RPP approvals for Victoria was a project developed with assistance from NEVACC.

RPP projects in the North East of Victoria has seen a total investment in the region of :	\$52,149,312.00
RPP project funding in North East Victoria was	\$14,003,123.00

RPP projects approved in For-Profit sector has seen a total investment in the region of :	\$13,312,152.00
RPP project funding in North East Victoria for For-Profit was	\$ 3,729,491.00

RPP projects funded across the Federal electorates of NEVACC’s region (*excludes multi-Shire projects*) :

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| • Indi | \$ 5,016,128.00 |
| • McEwen | \$ 3,561,758.00 |
| • Murray | \$ 5,299,837.00 |

NEVACC Members and Staff strongly believe that NEVACC’s open and accountable method adopted by proponents in applying for funding ensured that RPP projects were always:

- Well developed and were the identified solutions to local defined needs.
- Of genuine benefit for the community and value for money for the Federal Government.
- A good mix of financial support for each project from Federal, State, Local and other Government agencies.
- Developed and written by the proponents and their own application submitted in the on-line system which gave them great satisfaction that they “owned” the application in its entirety.
- Projects were always viewed and discussed on-site by NEVACC Staff who met with proponents to determine the best way to proceed, then coached the applicant through the on-line application system, reviewed many drafts of projects to ensure that the applications were complete and had all the relevant answers to the questions, and that the project had a good mix of partners, and
- Had excellent community support including local Federal and State MPs.

- ✓ **It is suggested that the Inquiry investigate then adopt the Victorian Government’s Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) processes as the best “model” to assist local communities apply for regional development funding.**

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- ✓ It is suggested that the proposed local Regional Development Australia committees should be used to determine and support funding for local infrastructure projects and that RDA should have a budget allocation / approval delegation for projects that assist small rural communities.
- ✓ It is suggested that funding be directed towards infrastructure projects which have economic benefits for the community, however assisting with social / cultural infrastructure maintenance and development should also be part of the funding regime particularly where it helps with social inclusion.
- ✓ It is suggested that if Federal Government funding is to be matched \$ for \$ by the proponent (*which is NEVACC's preferred model*) then there will need to be a consensus between the Federal Government and the States (specifically in Victoria) on infrastructure priorities as this State has proven itself to be a major contributor to "matching funding".

NEVACC understands that judging what is a "genuine" project is subjective. The Federal Government needs to provide, on a timely basis, a general list priorities and guidelines to local regional bodies such as RDAs and the community on the Federal Government's infrastructure priorities. This would be beneficial to all particularly after consultations by the Federal Government or its agencies with local regional bodies such as RDAs. In the final analysis, this judgment has to be made by the Government (*who will take the largest share of credit or blame by the Australian community*) and the local community.

With regard to "for profit" companies, and understanding Parliamentary Secretary Gary Gray's comments that he is "disinclined" to provide assistance to for-profit businesses, NEVACC has demonstrated its success in assisting such companies. As governments have always had difficulty in "picking winners" ie providing funding through grants to businesses that continue to be successful, NEVACC, generally, is not in favour of providing companies access to a new regional development funding programme noting that there are other government grants available for these companies.

"Accountability" is adequately determined by the two levels of audit previously conducted of RPP.

What made NEVACC successful in its RPP application submissions :

NEVACC believes that its successes derived from the following methods and should be considered for inclusion in any new regional development programme:

- NEVACC Staff worked closely with all proponents on site across North East Victoria and were always prepared to travel to meet with and advise proponents.
- NEVACC Staff sat with and coached proponents on site in the electronic version process to enter application data –
- The many small groups assisted stated that without these visits that encouraged and motivated them they would have abandoned their on-line RPP applications as being far too complicated!
- NEVACC's Executive Officer and the Regional Managers of Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and then Department of Victorian Communities (DVC) / now Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD) visited municipalities, major community organisations and individual groups on a planned agenda to advise potential proponents on RPP and State Government funding programmes – this allowed these three (3) Officers to instruct the various recipients on the best way to seek funding or to reject potential projects that obviously did not meet the variety of funding programme Guidelines "on offer".
- NEVACC's Project Facilitator also met with and worked closely with Regional Development Victoria and Department of Victorian Communities / Department of Planning and Community Development staff (often travelling together to visit proponents) to discuss projects.
- NEVACC Staff kept NEVACC Members involved through its own internal "Project Synopsis Sheet" e-mailed to Members on a regular basis and endorsed at Committee meetings
 - (*DOTARS included NEVACC's 'Project Synopsis Sheet' in its Internal Assessment Manual as an example of "best practice" for all ACCs to use nationally*)
- NEVACC Staff always used the networks of the Board to ensure community support was consistent with the proponents' advice
- Board Members would individually assess and then provide a recommendation or non-recommendation of a project back to Staff
- NEVACC Staff worked closely with the DoTaRS Regional Office (Melbourne) and sought their (*pre-submission, informal, "unofficial"*) input into the project's development and fed this information back to proponents

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- Proponents lodged their electronic application only when all parties formally agreed that the project was fully developed and ready for assessment

NEVACC Staff, with their broad programmes' knowledge-base, also adopted "a one stop shop" attitude and, "operating outside their brief", assisted proponents write and submit applications for the *Australia Tourism Development Programme* (ATDP), the *Community Water Grants Programme*, *Food Processing in Regional Australia* (FPRA) Grants, *Rural Transaction Centre* (RTC) Programme, *Small Business Enterprise Culture Programme* (SBECP) [and its sub-programmes such as *Building Entrepreneurship in Small Business Programme* (BESBP)] and the *Business Incubators Programme* (BIP) as well as assessing local applications under the Federal Government's "*AusLink*" Programme, and "proof-reading" many applications submitted to many Victorian State Government programmes – a reasonable approval rate across these programmes was achieved.

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Term of Reference No 2 :

“Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;”

From anecdotal evidence given to NEVACC, staff believed that, from the submission point on, all understanding of the Departmental internal assessment process was, in the main, unknown and unexplainable to proponents.

- ***A new programme must have an open and traceable assessment system that each proponent has access to.***

At times, NEVACC’s proponents and staff did not fully comprehend nor understand the Department’s internal assessment processes “as the goal-posts continually shifted” and “the level playing field” seemed very uneven. It was sometimes felt that when a RPP submission [recommended by NEVACC] was submitted to DoTaRS the assessment by all levels of the Department was slow, erratic and inconsistent across its regions.

- ***A new programme must provide the Federal Government’s well thought out priorities and guidelines to all proponents and assisting regional bodies eg RDAs.***
- ***A new programme’s assessment process must always judge an application against the stated Guidelines and Departmental internal interpretations must be avoided.***
- ***A new programme must reduce the layers of decision-making and commentary in the submission approval process.***
- ***A new programme must lessen the time taken to determine the outcome of a submission for funds.***

To overcome this deficiency, NEVACC developed its own internal document (a “Regional Partnership Application / Assessment / Approval Flow Chart”) to project to both proponents and NEVACC Members that applying for RPP funding was a fair and open process – however, this internal document plotted the cumbersome and time-consuming, multi-level assessment / approval process being undertaken (particularly post-submission) by NEVACC itself [“ACC Review”], the Departmental Regional Office (Melbourne), the Departmental Assessment Section (Canberra), the Departmental Senior Officer quality assurance checks, the Minister’s Advisory Staff, the Minister himself and, in the latter stages, the tri-Ministerial Committee and / or their staff. [See Attachment]

- ***A new programme must be as simple as it can be and avoid unnecessary multi-level bureaucratic processes.***
- ***A new programme could have a single application pro forma that satisfies both Federal and State Government requirements, or if local / State Government has assessed and decided to fund a project there should not be a need for the Federal Government to again fully assess the same application.***

Proponents always quickly responded to requests from the Departmental Assessors for further information.

With commercial projects, proponents always fully expected a financial viability check being undertaken by Departmental-appointed “external auditors”. NEVACC was anecdotally advised that often proponents were confused by the requests for information which had already been provided.

The same for-profit proponents advised NEVACC that they were frustrated by continual requests for further information and never understood why one request for all required information was not made during Departmental assessment rather than several individual requests for more information being made over as many weeks as the assessment proceeded?

- ***A new programme’s applications should all be first entirely assessed upon receipt and a single request for corrective information be made to each proponent if necessary – continuous, ad hoc, or piecemeal requests should be avoided at all times.***

The DoTaRS Assessors (Canberra) infrequently sought further information via NEVACC Staff – NEVACC always considered this a ‘weakness’ in the system as (Canberra) rarely acknowledged that the local ACC knew its proponents / projects better through its pre-submission, close working relationships with its proponents and by-passed NEVACC.

- ***A new programme’s assessors would always involve the local regional body in any request for further information from a proponent. If the information requested was actually “missing” from the application, these requests would also act as “a training aide” for those involved and ensure that future applications did, in fact, contain this information?***

With RPP approval announcements, in the main, proponents were advised by their local Member of Parliament if their application was successful and the proponents, in turn, would then advise NEVACC Staff or Members.

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Unsuccessful decisions were conveyed to proponents by Departmental letters with often ambiguous or nebulous reasons.

Departmental Assessing Staff often seemed surprised when NEVACC Staff advised them in turn of the success of a project (*NEVACC staff were not always convinced that they did not know but they always claimed they were the last to be advised*).

- ***A new programme's application's decision announcement should always be made by the Minister or his / her Delegate, regardless of what that decision is – this should apply equally to both "positive" and "negative" decisions.***

NEVACC's consultative processes with regional bodies identified a feeling that the Minister needs to clearly and unambiguously define the terms "regions" or "regional". Whilst NEVACC does not necessarily agree, North East Victoria's Local Governments further defined this request for clarity by suggesting that any such Ministerial-definition of the terms "regions" or "regional" should exclude the metropolitan cities, major provincial cities and perhaps even peri-urban interface councils.

- ***A new programme must clearly and unambiguously define the terms "regions" or "regional"***

There was a feeling that it is vital that government(s) recognise that Councils and established regional bodies such as RDA are best placed and qualified to work co-operatively together to make assessments / priority recommendations to both Federal and State government for regional infrastructure development funding (this empowerment at a local and regional level is a stated aim of the ITRDLG Minister himself).

- ***A new programme must recognise local established regional bodies are best placed to work co-operatively together to apply for regional infrastructure funding and further recognise that such applications would not be submitted without the collective agreement of all bodies involved.***

NEVACC considers that submissions for funding amounting to less than \$25k could be approved by the local RDA if it meets the established priorities and guidelines of the Government. The Government (or the Department) would be informed of the local RDA's decision prior to any announcement to allow seven (7) days for any questions or disallowance relating to that decision. Each local RDA could be provided with a notional grant of \$100k each 6 months for this purpose.

- ***A new programme could allow the Minister-responsible to delegate a level of financial approval to local RDAs for approving submissions which would reduce the cost of the assessing processes when compared with the RPP processes.***

Contractual arrangements were not the responsibility of NEVACC nor were they ever sought. Contracts were initially organised by the DoTaRS Regional Office (Melbourne) and then by DoTaRS (Canberra) when all decision-making was "re-centralised" to it – this seriously delayed the contract negotiation and, at later stages, reporting procedures.

- ***A new programme would involve the local regional body in assisting the Department in some of these negotiating and / or reporting processes and would, in turn, strengthen the assessment / decision processes.***

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Term of Reference No 3 :

“Examine the former government’s practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs;”

and

Term of Reference No 4 :

“Examine the former government’s practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.”

- Respondents to the Inquiry were asked to comment on the ANAO Audit Report No 14 2007 – 2008 : “Performance Audit of the Regional Partnerships Programme : Volume 1 – Summary and Recommendations [Pages 121 – 131].

✓ NEVACC observes that the ANAO, in its extensive audit of RPP, did not level criticism at the ACC Network, individual ACCs or project proponents in general in their involvement with RPP.

✓ NEVACC observes that similar findings were made by the August 2005 Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Programme.

NEVACC, where it is able to, makes the following comments about each of the ANAO’s 20 Recommendations:

Assessment and Approvals

- Recommendation 1 : *‘strengthen administration procedures and advices to the Ministers’*
DOF agreement given : not an ACC matter
- Recommendation 2 : *‘changes to documenting amendments’*
DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter
- Recommendation 3 : *‘qualify advice to Ministers’*
DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter
- Recommendation 4 : *‘timely announcements of approvals’*
DOTARS agreement given : **NEVACC feels that ACCs should always have been advised much earlier than they were. Often a proponent would ring NEVACC to express their appreciation to be embarrassed to find out that NEVACC had not been advised.**
DOTARS Regional Office staff often claimed they were the last to be informed about “approvals” (?).
- Recommendation 5 : *‘achieving value for money when acting on an election commitment’*
Most obviously a political result : not an ACC matter
- Recommendation 6 : *‘transparency, accountability and equity’*
DOTARS agreement given : **NEVACC feels that ACCs could have assisted greatly with this part of the ‘assessment’ process had DOTARS been more open and prepared to trust ACCs to assist?**
- Recommendation 7 : *‘assessment & decision-making stages’*
DOTARS agreement given : **NEVACC feels that ACCs could have assisted greatly with this part of the ‘assessment’ process had DOTARS been more open and prepared to trust ACCs to assist?**

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Recommendation 8 : *'reconsideration of a signed Ministerial funding decision'*
 DOTARS agreement given : NEVACC strongly recommends that, as ACCs were involved in the construction of the RPP application and then in completing its "ACC Review" in making its own recommendation to the Minister, any changes to an approval should automatically be returned to the recommending ACC to reconsider its original decision – to ignore what is an integral initial part of the assessment process is to invite local criticism that the reconsidered decision was influenced or at least flawed

Partnerships and Support

Recommendation 9 : *'governance framework for approving minor variations'*
 DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter

Recommendation 10 : *'trigger for further investigation'*
 DOTARS agreement given : NEVACC has always requested that if any matter is identified in the assessment process that requires further investigation, the local ACC should be immediately informed and / or involved in any further assessment of the proponent / application – to ignore the local ACC is to ensure that an important part of the assessment process is deleted?

Recommendation 11 : *'improve management of contracts'*
 DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter

Recommendation 12 : *'improve performance reporting'*
 DOTARS agreement with some qualifications given : not an ACC matter, however ACCs could have been used to ensure that all reports were submitted to DOTARS on time and as required had they been advised when & what reports were required.

Identifying, Assessing and Managing Viability

Recommendation 13 : *'improve viability assessments'*
 DOTARS agreement given : NEVACC feels that ACCs, with appropriate training, could have assisted DOTARS greatly in this matter.

Recommendation 14 : *'applicant viability checks'*
 DOTARS agreement with some qualifications given : NEVACC feels that ACCs, with appropriate training, could have assisted DOTARS greatly in this matter.

Recommendation 15 : *'manage risks of for-profit entities'*
 DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter

Recommendation 16 : *'quantitative evidence of financial information [for-profit entities]'*
 DOTARS agreement given : not an ACC matter but NEVACC always warned its for-profit RPP proponents that an external viability assessment would be undertaken by DOTARS – such proponents did not object to this and saw it as a natural part "of doing business", however they informed NEVACC that in some instances an external viability check was only cursory. They also expressed that they were frustrated by (assessor) questions that, to them, demonstrated that an inexperienced person was asking the questions, or that the provision of "a set of figures" developed at a cost by the company's own financial experts seemed to satiate the enquirer rather than the contents of the set of figures? [NEVACC had a discussion with one of DOTARS Canberra-based assessors who lamented the fact that all 'business plan (templates)' were not standardised which, from his personal view, made assessing of RPP projects in DOTARS quite difficult and time-consuming!]

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Managing Outcomes

- Recommendation 17 : *'equitable access (to RPP)'*
DOTARS agreement given : **NEVACC is not aware of any RPP proponent that did not have an equitable access to RPP?**
- Recommendation 18 : *'timely receipt and analysis of progress reports'*
DOTARS agreement given : **not an ACC matter, however ACCs could have been used to ensure that all reports were submitted to DOTARS on time and as required had they been advised when & what reports were required.**
- Recommendation 19 : *'promote achievements and accountability of outcomes'*
DOTARS agreement given : **not an ACC matter, however such a promotion could have assisted greatly in showing that RPP did work in local areas?**
- Recommendation 20 : *'assessments of project budgets and staff training'*
DOTARS agreement given : **not an ACC matter**

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The following projects provide the Inquiry with a sample of projects developed with the support of NEVACC Members and Staff - included is an unknown assessment outcome for a project, a commercial project, three large community projects and 2 small community projects from a spread of local government areas across North East Victoria.

Cobram Integrated Care Centre

What the Project is about

- In late 2006 the sole local dentists approached Cobram District Hospital to purchase their dental clinic.
- The dentists had been practising in the current clinic for over 50 years and were eager to ensure dental services in Cobram were maintained with a strong community focus after they retired.
- As a result a significantly reduced purchase price was negotiated and one of the dentists agreed to continue to work in the clinic to allow for succession planning.
- In order to facilitate this succession planning for new dentists and align the dental clinic with the hospital it is proposed that the dental clinic and the current hospital medical clinic be integrated.
- This will involve the construction and fit out of a new dental clinic as part of the Cobram Medical Centre to form the Cobram Integrated Care Centre.
- This project will take advantage of economies of scale and complete the final piece of a designated health precinct in the community therefore increasing accessibility of health services.
- In undertaking the dental services project Cobram District Hospital will ensure the provision of dental services in the Cobram District region.
- Cobram District Hospital has committed \$100,000 towards purchasing the practice and all equipment within the practice.
- Prior to agreeing to this purchase the hospital engaged an independent auditor to conduct a due diligence and as a result of the recommendations of this report is confident the clinic will be sustainable.
- Regional Partnerships funding will be used primarily for the purchase and fit out of plant and equipment for the new clinic.
- The remainder of the funding will be used to purchase the external expertise required to complete a project of this size such as architecture and dental planning.

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	Rpp Funding	Community
	\$602,000.00	
Cobram & District Hospital		\$296,000.00
Barooga Sports Club		\$300,000.00
Hospital Ladies Auxiliary		20,000.00
Hospital Foundation		\$150,000.00
Melbourne University		\$50,000.00
	\$602,000.00	<u>\$816,000.00</u>
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT		\$1,418,000.00

NEVACC Recommendation of the Project

- NEVACC members and staff highly recommend this project to the Minister as being able to make a significant difference to the residents in and surrounding Cobram.
- This is an excellent, well researched solution developed with the community for the community.
- Generous local partners have contributed significant dollars to ensure the Cobram Integrated Care Centre will become a reality that is a place where all health needs can be sought, a “one-stop-shop” for both medical and dental services.
- The Integrated Care Centre will ensure that these services are available to the whole community but especially for the more disadvantaged members of the community.
- Cobram has a high number of residents, some 20%, who fall within the low socio economic disadvantage group; Cobram also has a high number of new settlers living in the region eg from Iraq.

Project result: **Unknown (Rpp closed 13.05.08)**

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Wangaratta Community Resource & Learning Centre

What the Project was about:

- This project is to construct a multipurpose community centre in the township of Dookie.
- The centre will service and support the social and economic life of the community and provide for its growth and development.
- The project has developed out of a community wide consultation and planning process which commenced in 2002 and resulted in the production of a Dookie and District Community Plan and master plan for the Dookie recreation reserve.
- These plans outline a vision and goals which served to inform, consolidate and co-ordinate community efforts for the community's future.
- Development and the construction of the multipurpose community centre is the current community priority as it will facilitate and enable a number of other actions identified in the planning process.
- The Community centre will be the cornerstone of the community's physical infrastructure, will replace a number of inadequate and isolated facilities and will provide the community with a resource which will enable increased capacity to develop its economic and social infrastructure.
- The multipurpose centre incorporates four major components-
 - a large meeting/activity area,
 - a community resource office,
 - sporting clubroom area and
 - a family and children's centre.
- The centre will meet the needs of a large number of separate groups and activities provide capacity for new and innovative initiatives and provide for the efficient sharing of resources

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPP Funding	Local Gov't	Private
	\$500,000.00		
Rural City of Wangaratta		\$ 500,000.00	
Goulburn Ovens TAFE			\$ 500,000.00
	\$500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	<u>\$ 500,000.00</u>
TOTAL COST OF THE PROJECT :			\$1,500,000.00

NEVACC Recommendation of the Project:

- This well planned and organised proposal has the opportunity to provide a much-needed community centre to
 - a growing but still relatively small and isolated community
 - that has banded together to ensure that its community pro-actively seeks
 - a better environment in which to live, work and socialise,
 - with access to services for their local community
 - to the standard and in a manner that larger and more economically advanced communities have had access to over many years.
- This application is the culmination of three years of intensive community consultation, appointment of representatives and the drafting of an approved and prioritised Dookie Community Plan that is fast becoming the blueprint for other communities of similar size.

Project result: **Approved**

Goulburn Valley Fruit New Technology (Commercial)

What the Project is about:

Integrity Fruit (Integrity) is comprised of eight fruit grower families that currently either own or manage a significant percentage of fresh fruit grown in the Goulburn Valley.

The objective of the project is for Integrity to develop and operate an internationally competitive export fruit packing facility to be implemented in the following order.

1. Place an order to buy a MAF pre-sizer and a RapidPacker.

These machines represent state-of-the-art European technology and there are no such machines being used by the Australian industry. The RapidPacker will be built under French direction in Bacchus Marsh, thereby transferring new technological skills into the country.

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2. By April 2007, the MAF pre-sizer will have been constructed and installed in another new facility separately funded by the Integrity partners.
- 3 By April 2007 the food grade packaging centre will be constructed from joint funding.
4. By May 2007 the RapidPacker will be installed.
5. By June 2007, the complete pre-sizing and packing line will be fully commissioned.
6. By June 2007 BRC food compliance standards will be achieved

Specifically the funding will go towards

1. MAF pre-sizer \$370,000.00 contribution towards total of \$970,000.00
2. RapidPacker \$274,000.00 contribution towards a total cost of \$574,000.00
3. Food grade packaging centre \$300,000.00 towards a total cost of \$617,000.00
4. Export standard Quality Assurance compliance (BRC) \$36,000.00 towards a total cost of \$60,000.00

The total amount being sought from Regional Partnership Funding is \$980,000.00 which as we have stated is 18% of the total cost of the project of \$5,468,000.00

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPP Funding	Private Funding	Borrowings
	\$980,000.00		
S.P. & T. Hall		\$ 300,000.00	
HV McNabb & son Pty Ltd		\$ 300,000.00	
I & L Bolitho Holdings Pty Ltd		\$ 300,000.00	
J & J Pottenger		\$ 300,000.00	
Bolitho Investments Pty Ltd		\$ 300,000.00	
Westpac Banking Corporation			\$3,000,000.00
		\$	
	\$980,000.00	1,500,000.00	\$3,000,000.00
Total Cost of the Project :		\$5,480,000.00	

NEVACC Recommendation

- The Goulburn Valley is Australia's greatest regional producer of fresh fruit and vegetable produce. In 2003/04, this single region accounted for 82% of national pear production, and 19% of national apple production.
- NEVACC members highly recommend this project as being able to achieve significant changes in the immediate operation of the horticulture industry but also as being able to ensure long term viability of the industry.
- This has direct benefits to all involved in the industry from the growers to the operators to the servicing industries such as;
- engineering, transport, chemical, water etc., and enhances the long term viability of the region both in providing direct and indirect employment opportunities.
- The region is renowned world wide as producing fruit in "clean and green" region of Australia.
- NEVACC members have confidence that the group have
 - the skills;
 - experience;
 - know how; and
 - the passion
- to ensure the project is completed and operational all in time for the next fruit season.
- The financial support through Regional Partnerships program would demonstrate to this new business that their willingness to invest in their region's future is encouraged and supported by the Federal Government as the industry faces the new world of open markets and more overseas competition in the home market while at the same time proving to be the industry with the best chance of being able to compete on the world market by the introduction of cutting-edge technology.
- Jobs in the horticulture are vital to this region and jobs retained as well as new jobs created will see 28 positions at Integrity once the new technology is installed.
- NEVACC members highly recommend this project to the Minister.

Project Result: **Approved**

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Mansfield Community Shed

What the Project is about:

Our proposal is to construct a Community Shed for the retired residents of Mansfield and District.

The Community Shed will operate on the successful 'Men In Sheds' concept, with the emphasis on being gender inclusive.

The 'Men in Sheds' concepts are recognized as Model of Best Practice and are acknowledged as assisting in the re-socialization process into retirement.

This project offers two sheds in the heart of Mansfield.

The types of activities the shed will be used for necessitates two separate buildings (on the one site) and include the following:

Woodwork and woodturning;

Welding;

Farming basics;

Handyperson knowledge;

Basic mechanics;

Bicycle maintenance and a

Clean area for needlework, wool spinning and soft furnishings.

The major reasons behind the Community Shed Project, is that it will offer retirees the chance to get out and meet other people and it will offer the chance to be creative, productive and to learn new skills or pass on old ones.

It will provide another avenue for socialization amongst elderly residents, with the ability to be accessed by younger members of the community in a forum that would provide intergenerational skilling.

It is envisaged that The Shed will provide

- a sense of purpose,
- a place to go,
- connections with others and
- a place to create for self, family and the community.

Regional Partnerships funding will assist in the construction of the shed.

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPP Funding	Community	In-Kind	State Gov't	Local Gov't
	\$75,615.00				
Partners:					
Mansfield Community Shed Project Cash		\$ 11,787.00			
Mansfield Community Shed Project In Kind			\$ 20,350.00		
Mansfield Shire Council					\$ 4,499.00
Victorian Dept of Human Services				\$ 2,000.00	
Mansfield Adult Continuing Education Inc		\$ 800.00			
MACE Inc In Kind			\$4,224.00		
	\$75,615.00	\$ 12,587.00	\$24,574.00	\$2,000.00	\$ 4,499.00
Total Cost of the Project :		\$119,275.00			

NEVACC Recommendation of the project:

NEVACC Members commend this project as providing for a specific rurally isolated group of people who in the main are

very active,

have skills and knowledge

but often not the equipment nor the workshops to continue their recreational pursuits.

Their skills and knowledge in a Community Shed environment can be shared, particularly with keen learners of a similar age, and

- with school students and
- with disengaged learners.

Active retirees are more likely to be healthy retirees.

Thus a purpose built resource where the retirees reside is of extreme importance.

If rurally isolated towns such as Mansfield do not have reasonable access to facilities for recreation in their own community, extensive travel to nearby provincial towns is exorbitant and severely limits access to recreation leaving elderly/retirees house or community bound.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

- This project has been used extensively by DOTARS / DITRDLG as an example nationally of “best practice” for an RPP applicant.
- Funding model has been used as an example of “best practice” for other (community) sheds and proponent has reproduced its application/processes in a booklet form and is most willing to share this information.

Project Result: **Approved**

Highlands Creative Community

What the Project is about:

Since the renovations to the hall in 2000 / 2001, the building is the centre of our community and is being used for many activities. It is now time for a further upgrade to the building in order to improve and maintain the property and encourage more community activities and events.

Highlands Creative Community is a large project, which celebrates the creative resourceful community here, and will help us to upgrade and maintain our facilities.

We have been successful in attracting some funding to date from Department of Sustainability and Environment and Murrindindi Shire Council, and we hope to gain funding from the Victorian Small Town Development Fund for a new kitchen and the upgrade of the Water Tanks and Amenities Block.

Internally we hope to use the Regional Partnerships funding to upgrade the building by

- improving the stage area by adding storage underneath,
- resurfacing the timber floors throughout the building, and
- replacing old furniture.
- Externally, we will use Regional Partnerships funding to install
- fixed outdoor furniture and
- a portable gas BBQ,
- purchase a fire fighting pump and hose kit,
- resurface our existing multipurpose outdoor area and
- replace old fence posts.

A local artist will create an exciting outdoor mural with the help of Highlands Primary School students.

We will improve sporting facilities and create a large chess board with life size chess pieces, and extend and landscape the garden.

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPP Funding	State Funding	Gov't Community	In-Kind
	\$ 51,111.00			
Department of Sustainability		\$ 11,800.00		
Regional Development Vic				
Small Town Development Fund		\$ 33,775.00		
Shire of Murrindindi			\$ 3,000.00	
Highlands Community Hall Inc (Cash)			\$ 1,810.00	
Highlands Community Hall Inc (in kind)				\$ 17,270.00
	\$ 51,111.00	\$ 45,575.00	\$ 4,810.00	\$ 17,270.00
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT				\$118,766.00

NEVACC Recommendation of the project:

NEVACC Members and Staff recommend this project to the Minister as one that can provide a small rurally isolated community with an upgrade to its Hall that can provide for all community activities.

The Hall is the venue for interactive activities for the young and the not-so-young and is very important for the social well being of the community members of as well as ensuring that the area maintains a community.

The Highlands Hall Community, through their interest and hobbies, are well placed to address serious issues such as drought, fire or tragedies within their community if they should arise.

Highlands is a 30 minute drive from Seymour and 45 minute drive from Yea and is within the Great Dividing Range as it runs through Victoria.

The project has

- a large commitment of volunteer hours combined with purchased material,

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

- equipment and professional services where they are unavailable in the area and
 - demonstrates a well supported and much need facility upgrade
- to ensure that Highlands will become well known as the 'Highlands Creative Community'.

Project result: **Approved**

Kings Park Enhancement Project

What the project is about:

Kings Park in Seymour is an icon in the town and by expanding its use to include

- walkers,
- bird lovers,
- junior sports and
- other recreational activities

it certainly provides the Mitchell Shire with the ability to deliver on its long term strategic objectives for health and wellbeing in terms of physical activity.

The Lower Hume Primary Care Partnership has as one of its health priorities cardiovascular health. Kings Park is already a sports precinct, but by completing this upgrade it will be a truly general community use facility.

The fact that the park is watered by recycled water from a local quarry and does not place any additional strain on the water resources of Seymour is a massive advantage.

Enhancement and completion of

- open space and
- recreation areas in accordance with Kings Park Master Plan; including
- access to wetland area.
- upgrade of existing infrastructure for children and disabled group users.

The project will be done in 5 phases:

1. Complete clearance of land and landscaping to produce open recreation area.
2. Construction of a walking trail around the perimeter of the park, allowing access to the lagoon and wetland area.
3. Rebuilding of Riding for the Disabled operational facility.
4. Upgrade Playgroup building to a standard for multi use by other user groups.
5. Construction of shelter, barbecue, amenities building and upgrading of power supply

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPp Funding	Community	In Kind	State Gov't
	\$215,600.00			
Seymour Sand and Gravel		\$120,000.00		
Kings Park Committee of Management		\$ 34,000.00		
Seymour Playgroup inc		\$ 2,000.00		
St Marys Junior Football Club		\$ 10,000.00		
Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society		\$ 5,000.00		
Eastern Hill Cricket Club inc		\$ 5,000.00		
Seymour and District Junior Football Club		\$ 500.00		
Lions Club Seymour inc		\$ 500.00		
Seymour Junior Football Club Inc		\$ 2,000.00		
Seymour Junior Football Club inc In Kind			\$1,000.00	
Berry Street Victoria			\$1,000	
Seymour Little Athletics			\$8,960	
Seymour Riding for the Disabled			\$8,000.00	
Seymour Special School			\$650.00	
Seymour Football Netball Club Inc			\$800.00	
Seymour Agricultural & Pastoral Society			\$6,720.00	
Eastern Hill Cricket Club inc			\$7,680.00	

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Kings Park Committee of Management				\$164,430.00
Seymour Playgroup inc				\$5,120.00
Other Government Sources				
Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority				\$6,000.00
Department of Victorian Communities				\$277,500.00
Mitchell Shire				\$117,820.00
	\$215,600.00	\$179,000.00	\$204,360.00	\$401,320.00
Total Cost of the Project \$1,000,280.00				

NEVACC Recommendation of the project:

NEVACC members highly recommend the King Park Community Enhancement Project as one most worthy of Regional Partnership funding to ensure that buildings are

- refurbished,
- a second oval for various junior sport can be developed,
- passive areas with walking tracks through the park and around the water areas can proceed and
- the riding for the disabled centre can be redeveloped as they are relocating within the park as part of the master plan.
- community members' visions can be realized as they have contributed towards the master plan for the enhancement of Kings Park and worked tirelessly to raise the cash and in-kind contributions to ensure the project is achievable.

Project result: **Approved**

Dookie Multipurpose Community Centre

What the Project was about:

This project is to construct a multipurpose community centre in the small rural township of Dookie. The centre will service and support the social and economic life of the community and provide for its growth and development.

The project has developed out of a community wide consultation and planning process which commenced in 2002 and resulted in the production of a Dookie and District Community Plan and Master Plan for the Dookie Recreation Reserve.

These plans outline a community's vision and goals which served to inform, consolidate and co-ordinate community efforts for the community's future.

Development and the construction of the multipurpose community centre is the current community priority as it will facilitate and enable a number of other actions identified in the planning process.

The Community Centre will be the cornerstone of the community's physical infrastructure, will replace a number of inadequate and isolated facilities and will provide the community with a resource which will enable increased capacity to develop its economic and social infrastructure.

The multipurpose centre incorporates four major components-

- a large meeting/activity area,
- a community resource office,
- sporting clubroom area and
- a family and children's centre.

The Centre will meet the needs of a large number of separate groups and activities provide capacity for new and innovative initiatives and provide for the efficient sharing of resources.

Regional Partnership Funding Breakdown

	RPP	State Funding	Community	In-Kind
	\$365,000.00			
Dept Human Services (Children First Capital Assistance for early				
Childhood services 05-06 funding round)		\$250,000.00		
Dept Vic Communities		\$20,000.00		

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Regional Development Vic (Small Towns Development Fund)	\$200,000.00			
Dept of Victorian Communities (Community Support Grant Building Community Infrastructure)	\$150,000.00			
Dept of Victorian Communities (Dept Sport & Recreation)	\$ 50,000.00			
Greater City of Shepparton		\$250,000.00		
Grains Cooperation		\$25,000.00		
Dookie & District Development Forum		75,000.00		
Dookie & District Development Forum (in Kind)			\$100,000.00	
Dookie & District Recreational Reserve Committee of Management (In-kind)			\$100,000.00	
	\$365,000.00	\$670,000.00	\$350,000.00	\$200,000.00
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	\$1,585,000.00			

NEVACC Recommendation of the Project:

- This well planned and organised proposal has the opportunity to provide a much-needed community centre to
- a growing but still relatively small and isolated community
- that has banded together to ensure that its community pro-actively seeks
- a better environment in which to live, work and socialise,
- with access to services for their local community
- to the standard and in a manner that larger and more economically advanced communities have had access to over many years.
- This application is the culmination of three years of intensive community consultation, appointment of representatives and the drafting of an approved and prioritised Dookie Community Plan that is fast becoming the blueprint for other communities of similar size.

Project result:

Approved

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Synopsis of e-mail / letter sent to 69 groups / individuals requesting assistance / feed-back to complete NEVACC's submission to the Inquiry plus the 9 municipalities that make up NEVACC's region. All of NEVACC's Members were also 'polled' :

"Recently the Federal Government announced that the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government will hold an inquiry into a new regional development funding program.

The four areas of inquiry will be :

1. *Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;*
2. *Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;*

The Committee also asks these two questions which require a more detailed knowledge of the workings of the Regional Partnerships Programme.

3. *Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and*
4. *Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.*

If you have been a successful applicant of Regional Partnerships, you may like to provide thoughts on positive and negative aspects of the Regional Partnerships Programme from your experience.

Feed-back received from NEVACC's "clients" on what they would like to see in place for any new regional development programme :

- There was agreement that the Federal Government should adopt the Regional Development Victoria (RDV) and the Regional Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) "model" as the best way to assist local communities apply for regional development funding ie
 - An 'expression of interest' application is submitted by a potential proponent to the local Regional Manager who
 - Advocates with the 'central office' on behalf of the applicant for funding and if successful, allocates staff to assist the proponent develop
 - A full project application which is then formally submitted to the Department
 - With a decision made by the Minister-responsible within eight (8) weeks of receipt.

[At all stages, there is no guarantee given by anyone that the Minister will approve any funding, but the proponent proceeds to develop a full funding application with confidence that a positive semi-decision has already been made!]
- There was agreement that any significant streamlining or reduction in the numbers of assessment levels should be supported.
- There was agreement that a much simplified application process was required.
- There was agreement that where there was an agreed synergy between Federal and State policies, then funding for projects should be automatic ie there was no need for intricate multi-assessment processes at both the Federal and State levels - all levels of governments and communities should be working co-operatively to ensure the identified project is funded and implemented. One fully developed application should suffice for both Governments. This would also remove the duplication of application-writing and multi-assessment processes at all levels.
- There was a general feeling that the proposed Regional Development Australia network, based on the achievements of the ACC Network, should be used to determine and support funding for local infrastructure projects was the best model to have, and there was a total rejection that centralised-decision-making ("Canberra") was an efficient model for anything.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

- It was accepted that the evolution of the ACCs into RDAs should assist in ensuring that the tri-governments / regions / communities have a united vision on regional priorities, and the endorsement of these priorities should then expedite the decision-making processes for community infrastructure processes.
 - There was agreement that any new regional development fund should provide for structured partnerships between the Federal, State and Local Governments so that all projects receive maximum co-operation and leverage of funding.
 - There was agreement that any new regional development programme should not significantly reduce regional Australia's capacity to access Federal funds nor eliminate a funding source previously dedicated to growing Australia's regions.
 - There was agreement that any funded investment should be based on sound regional or sub-regional planning and their stated priorities.
 - There was agreement from all respondents that they were happy with the local (RPP) processes and assistance received ("NEVACC") and, to a degree, were happy with the assessment processes up to the ("Melbourne") stage, but there was general dissatisfaction with the centralised assessment ("Canberra") processes.
 - Without exception, clients who responded want to see the retention of the accepted process where on-site assistance to construct and complete regional development funding applications is provided by a local organisation that is acutely aware of what is happening in the region, what are the identified needs of the region and what is best for the region.
 - There is a total rejection that "one funding programme fits all" approach is best.
 - There is total rejection of the excessive time taken to arrive at a convoluted decision to approve an application, followed by an excessive amount of time to negotiate a contract and / or to then receive the funding.
 - There is a total rejection of the need for the continuation of a centralised, cumbersome, heavily-bureaucratic, lengthy multi-step assessments and intricate decision-making processes that many saw that Canberra's handling of RPP had become.
 - There is a feeling that "small rural councils" should have a different approval process that recognises their uniqueness ("smallness") rather than having to compete for funds on the same basis as and against provincial cities or larger regions.
 - Responding small rural municipalities felt that local Regional Development Australia committees should have the delegation to approve / fund small infrastructure projects "...deemed to be of local importance where the cost of the project is clearly beyond the financial capacity of a small rural council to deliver unassisted."
 - There was a feeling the success of a project should not be judged solely on narrow economic outcomes as community infrastructure projects can have many outcomes including improving community well-being and other social outcomes which cannot often be measured economically.
 - Responding municipalities felt that project applications should be aligned with Council / Municipal Plans or community plans or sub-regional plans that have already identified the need for such infrastructure rather than submitting ad hoc local applications that seemed to be previously approved on "a hit & miss" basis.
 - There was a feeling that the Minister needs to clearly define what "regions" or "regional" mean, and that any such Ministerial-definition should exclude the metropolitan cities, major provincial cities and perhaps even peri-urban interface councils.
 - There was a feeling that it is vital that government(s) recognise that Councils, RDA and such established regional bodies are best placed and qualified to work co-operatively together to make assessments / priority recommendations to both Federal and State government for regional infrastructure development funding – this empowerment at a local and regional level is a stated aim of the Minister himself.
 - There was a feeling that any new programme designed to meet regional development needs should be aware of the broad categories of developed Municipal Plans
 - Community and Public Infrastructure;
 - Local Roads;
 - Health;
 - Environment;
 - Tourism Strategies;
 - Business Attraction;
 - Private Enterprise Projects.
- and adopt these as the broad categories for potential funding under such a programme.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Copy of NEVACC's Clients' Survey *pro forma* developed with NEVACC-Member input for all face-to-face interviews conducted by NEVACC's Project Facilitator :

1. Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

And, how can this be proved?

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important
Why? _____

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why? _____

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why? _____

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why? _____

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/NO
Why? _____

*Did you understand the application process?

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

*Please comment on the electronic process?

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Samples of individual RPP proponents "feed-back" to NEVACC :

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

The project has been of huge benefit to the community

The many partners both funding and users has ensured great diverse use of the facility

Youth space has become a great "hang-out" area for them (off the streets, warm and friendly space) great use of the area

Children's area on special events, such as story telling & reading hard to get into the space for families and prams

Meeting space is in the main being booked by various community groups

Great Passive and Active facility with the co operation and space for all in the community

A men's reading and yarning group has developed informally, mainly retired men reading the daily papers and yarning with like people- very excited

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

A program with broad guidelines thus enabling it o be totally flexible

A program that fills the gaps which is the community facilities between state and LGA and community often can do the sport & recreation thing but not the purely good things for the community

Important to consider each project on its merit

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

Community with their LGA

A Regional organisation

Regional Body has provided invaluable information, advocacy, on the ground discussion during the early development phases

Local knowledge is invaluable

And, how can this be proved?

Working together face to face gives everybody a clear understanding of what can be funded, who is best to fund

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

Open all the year round

Allows for full development of a project both meeting the guidelines and working with the community without tight timeframes

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

A Regional Body must have involvement in the process

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important

Why?

Enabled the total project to be undertaken involving many aspects to gain a wide range outcomes

Internally harder to manage and track but the (Council) has developed internal processes to manage documentation and better track budget items

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Why?

*Proponent has worked with two ACC's and found the operations inconsistent - would prefer ACC's to have similar/same operations procedures
Found NEVACC to offer well informed information and brought a new pair of eyes to help with the process*

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Officers very supportive- but if the delegated officer was unavailable then the cross over between officers handling the file didn't/couldn't happen

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Mysterious at times

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/ NO

Why?

*IT Support
Clean pair of eyes to read and review application form*

*Did you understand the application process?

Yes

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

*Announcements
Found it very difficult to establish the status of the project.
Nobody seemed able nor willing to advise. (Secretive)*

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

*Greater involvement to the Regional Body
Be trusting and adult about all the information supplied
Greater openness
Final decision should be the simplest*

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

Yes

*Please comment on the electronic process?

Found the TRAX system too restrictive, unreliable, often the program closed down and information was lost

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

*Great Program
Designed especially for community needs
Keep the political involvement out of the process*

3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

Fantastic for the community

Many more informal gatherings of the community members, eg drinks on the deck, great for a community struggling with the prolonged drought and the associated hardships

Working bees were well supported and often they lasted longer than planned as people enjoyed the companionship

New input, new uses and new members

Kitchen has extended the operation of the facility, birthday parties, dinners etc

Increased visiting tutors for the Hi-Arts Group

School activities increasing with inside and outside activities

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

Small rural community able to access funds has made a tremendous difference within the community one of great to get government support we are not on our own- somebody cares and values us

The flexibility of the application guidelines allowed (proponent) to achieve what could only be a dream if the money was all to come from the community

\$ for \$ contribution in very small communities could have been impossible without other partners funding

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

Local Community, LGAs , State Govt , Regional Body such as NEVACC

And, how can this be proved?

Working with the local community

Being involved in the planning with the community

Letters of evidence by the community

Discussions

Involving LGA & outside organisations including State & NEVACC

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

Open all the year around is far more flexible

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

Some involvement of a Regional organisation like NEVACC

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important

Why?

Hard to organise and work with, different requirements and funding time frames but the result is just great

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Live in a remote area where broad band came after the application process was commenced and dial up system was very unreliable

Helped with working with partners to maximise the spend on the project

Helped with reading and reviewing the application form

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Helped with budget which was hard to keep the quotes on products and services relevant when the application took some time to prepare

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Contract management only no problems

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

*Seemed to ask questions already covered off by the local organisations and in fact the documented design if read would have shown that access for people with disabilities was in place and in fact no local planning permit would have been provided had not this access been available(no understanding of local planning laws)
Unnecessary checking of information supplied*

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES NO

Why?

Community had not undertaken a complex application for funding and felt a little overwhelmed at the documentation in the first instance

*Did you understand the application process?

Well explained by NEVACC staff but my computer & no broadband delayed application in the early stages but solutions were found

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

*Very long process planning, developing and waiting for the results
Canberra too far from Highlands to understand the local situation*

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

If Canberra assessing projects visits to the sites would ensure a better understanding of the need

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

Yes

*Please comment on the electronic process?

OK but limited by my facilities

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

*Wonderful
Needed partners to make it work/achieve for very small community of (proponent's small town)*

Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Pride in a community facility that the community have invested their time and dollars
The project broke down ownership barriers
Provided a facility that the whole of community could have access to
Brings people into the town for both using and visiting the facility to see what has been achieved, community proud to talk through the process to obtaining their outcome
Partnerships concept the most beneficial- this was a source of education for the community members
The whole process was an education for the community
Economic, sporting and community connectedness- many groups working together to achieve the final outcome

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

Proponent liked shared funding arrangements- many partnerships
Promotes integration and co-operation of community members
Planning process is of very high importance, community members learned greatly from this process

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

Community Research
Shire assessing need to refine and provide a standard and ensure outside ideas, expertise and knowledge is added to the planning
State government can re-in force the need
Regional bodies like NEVACC

And, how can this be proved?

Research statistics
Ensuring that all funding bodies/authorities involved early in the project to ensure guidance
Regional is more appropriate in assessing based on local knowledge

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

Open all the year or a intervals within the year, this will be more responsive to community needs
Flexible guidelines which allow projects to be scoped to achieve high outcomes

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

Keep politics out of the process
Fair and open assessment
Appropriate to get decisions at different levels and at all these levels early, honest feedback is important
Don't set unrealistic expectations - tell people early if project will not be funded

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important
 Why?

Gave ownership to the community - broke down barriers/delineation

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
 Why?

Important to get the Regional perspective against the local levels

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
 Why?

Understanding and organising the funding agreement

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
 Why?

TRAX Support Team members were really good

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/NO
Why?

Guidance and support locally saved a lot of time

*Did you understand the application process?
Yes very clearly explained

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?
Timelines- coordination of timelines between funding organisations (partners) and aligning with varies bodies requirements became a juggling act.

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.
*Trust and acceptance of information between all authorities
Open, informative and honest feedback between and to all organisations*

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?
*The application became an education process
Community members benefited doing the work/ being involved*

*Please comment on the electronic process?
TRAX was good

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?
*Excellent experience great co-operation and assistance
The process undertaken has been as valuable as the outcome*

Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?
*Facility that the community values and is used on a regular basis by a wide cross sector of the community.
Learning venue, Social venue for a diverse groups , primary/secondary school students, adult education and recreation from Arts to Tools eg welding skills for those wishing to repair, make something or for those interested in developing some skills to make a career in the industry*

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?
*RPP model of partnerships is most important with State, Local Federal and community contribution.
However, level of contribution for a project should not be required to be equal eg not all funding needing to be matching
All projects need to be driven by the community*

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?
*Valuable input from a regional body eg NEVACC, ensures a regional perspective and outside knowledge is added to the project development
Community support not always needing to be financial but a demonstrated commitment of use/need
Community commitment to continue to fund/support the project on-going
Local government often slow to take the risks and need to be more flexible in their decisions (especially with time frames, budgets etc)
NEVACC provided an outside independent "eye" and made applicant aware of issues and priorities*

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

And, how can this be proved?

*Letters of Support
Local knowledge*

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

Open all year round, helps with the budgeting within a project and allows for community members to work together and then place an application

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

NEVACC/regional assessment against the criteria project shouldn't need any further assessment, maybe a cap of funding up to \$250,000.00 and perhaps a national assessment for projects over \$250,000.00

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important
Why?

Shared responsibility and commitment

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why?

Local knowledge, information and expertise

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why?

Contract management great

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful
Why?

No contact at all from Canberra

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/ NO

Why?

Needed IT support and feedback on the application material to ensure all the criteria was addressed

*Did you understand the application process?

Thought so

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

No

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

Announcements of successful or otherwise to be advised within a defined timeframe. eg 8 weeks

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

Yes

*Please comment on the electronic process?

TRAX was fine

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

Excellent model for ensuring funding is delivered to small local communities.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

The project has provided an opportunity for minor groups including childcare, riding for the disabled, to have their aged infrastructure updated as part of a larger project at Park.

The project has provided the community members with a facility that they feel great pride in.

The project was able to involve a special school in the area as they grew and planted many of the trees, this group use the Park for fun not organised sport, this project has extended their education out into a another area within the community.

Extended groups are now becoming involved from the demonstrated success with further Art and Signage work for the numerous building at the park

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

RPP was excellent

Proponent willing accepted the rigorous assessing, first locally within the local committees , then the broader community, then the local shire, the acceptance of the State officials and Local ACC's through these channels the proponent believed the projects had proved its need, worth and viability.

Having local entities from Local Government, State Government & ACC representatives to work with and explain all the processes along the way was invaluable

Important that each step in the assessment adds value to the decision and the final assessment should be the most simple.

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

Canberra only need to be a rubber stamp after community, shire, and state have endorsed the project.

Ensure that steps in the assessment process add value to the final decision and that the final assessment should be the most simple.

And, how can this be proved?

Though the application process by ensuring that at all levels the application is sound.

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

To ensure that accurate costings remain constant through the application process to final announcement then open all the year applications and announcements within 12 weeks upon receipt of application.

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

Endorsement by the Local Community, Local Shire, State Government and a regional body such as the ACC should ensure that a project proceeds.

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important

Why?

The broader the base of community members involved in a project the greater the benefit to the community

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

The staff of NEVACC were most helpful in the process in helping a community member

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

[Council] managed the projects and further comments will be gained from [name supplied] responsible officer for the project

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

*Cryptic comments /bureaucratic comments,
Felt more straight forward language would have demonstrated more honesty,
Community people can understand the word "No",
Talked in circles
Said that a component of the project could not be funded even though the (RPP) Guidelines didn't rule it out.*

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/ NO

Why?

Representative of NEVACC helped the committee and me understand the process and ensured the application addressed all the requirements.

*Did you understand the application process?

Yes

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

Delay in announcements impacted on other funding agencies, final costs of products, work and availability of labour

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

Managing 'outcomes' not the 'inputs'

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

Yes

*Please comment on the electronic process?

The TRAX application process was excellent.

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

*As a successful proponent of a project, we would be keen to see a program like RPP continue.
Smaller communities are just as deserving as cities and larger centres and RPP address the need to develop the Park
Government funding assisted a small community to obtain a facility that is of a best standard across Australia otherwise this would not have been possible.
Local knowledge and input is critical.*

Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects;

*What do you believe the benefits of your project were to your community?

Employment security

Increasing farm viability

The project developed during an extreme flat period in the area due to the drought, was a positive Belief by local industries that the government recognises and believes in the long term viability of the industry/investors and people

*How would you like to see a future funding program provide other funds for your community project?

Funding for new technology

Through a application process

Interest free loans to commercial entities over extended years eg 15; maybe another way however this may become a concern as businesses could only obtain this type of funding to build up their businesses

*Who do you believe is in the best position to prove the need of your project?

More in-put by local decision makers

Local communities have the knowledge and the right people to make fair and sure decisions

Regional Board with the right skills set/ using the support of say industry bodies

And, how can this be proved?

Formal documentation

*In applying for grants which method would you prefer; applications open to the fund all the year; applications to closing rounds at intervals within a year, or one round per year?

Available all year to ensure prices of goods and services remain constant

*Who do you feel would be best placed to decide the success or otherwise of your project?

Responsible people in charge of the project

*How important to your project did you feel a funding arrangement with a variety of contributors was to your project? Eg: Community, Local, State, Federal and In-Kind.

1 not important 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 very important

Why?

This suited the structure of our new organisation- the new way of businesses successfully working together

3. Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers;

4.

*How valuable was the NEVACC support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Would not have applied without the encouragement and local support of NEVACC

*How valuable was the Melbourne Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Easy to work with organising the contract and getting it into place

*How valuable was the Canberra Office support?

1 not helpful 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 most helpful

Why?

Felt that the assessors didn't read the application with any understanding

The first application was treated differently to the second application

When asking the questions such as "When will a decision be made?" or "Do you require any further information?" the answers always seemed to be guarded and careful responses

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

*Would you have been able to complete your application without the local support? YES/NO

Why

Ensure that the local people have a role in the process.

This would also ensure that consultants are eliminated and that proponents own their project

*Did you understand the application process?

Yes

*Can you identify any blockages in the application process, submission process, assessment process, announcements and contract negotiations?

Decisions in a realistic time frame

Lack of advice on progress of application through the Assessment Process

*Please make suggestions of how to improve.

Cut down the time in the decision making process

More open approach to information sharing by the assessors

Rather like to know "NO" rather than nothing and hanging around

*Did you understand the application and assessment process?

Yes

*Please comment on the electronic process?

Once explained TRAX was fine

*What is your general perception of the Regional Partnership Program?

Very pleased with the outcome for our business and community.

Would like to see it continued for other businesses to benefit

3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs; and

Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Table demonstrating success and evenness of multi-partner funding across all RPP projects :

* Private enterprise approvals

Approved Regional Partnership Projects submitted via NEVACC (01.07.03 - 13.05.08)	Regional P'ships \$s (GST-inclusive)	Non-Gov't Partners	Local Gov't \$'s	Other Gov't \$s	In-Kind	Total Project \$s	RPP \$1 : \$1
Alpine High Country Marketing Campaign	\$55,000	\$162,000			\$5,558	\$222,558	4.0
Benalla & District Fire Brigade Group- Staging Area Trailer	\$10,913	\$11,066	\$1,800			\$23,779	2.2
Benalla Drill Hall Renovations	\$55,000		\$25,000	\$200,000	\$25,000	\$305,000	5.5
Cobram Community Facilities & Consolidation, Expansion & Green Linkages	\$286,000	\$150,000	\$914,000	\$1,350,000		\$2,700,000	9.4
Cobram East/Boosey Creek CFA Community Centre	\$110,000	\$19,975		\$265,000	\$2,725	\$397,700	3.6
Community Resource & Learning Centre (Wang)	\$550,000	\$500,000	\$500,000			\$1,550,000	2.8
* D & R Henderson Saw Mill Redevelopment	\$792,000	\$1,353,568				\$2,145,568	2.7
Dookie Multi Purpose Complex	\$401,500	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$670,000	\$200,000	\$1,621,500	4.0
* Enterprise Park, Benalla	\$323,949	\$799,421		\$7,359		\$1,130,729	3.5
Extension "Henderson Pavilion" & Upgrade the Farm Produce & Poultry Pavilions	\$195,322	\$200,000		\$10,000		\$405,322	2.1
Federation Park	\$383,900	\$201,000	\$50,000		\$100,000	\$734,900	1.9
* Fruitgrowers' Victoria	\$6,750	\$1,500			\$4,800	\$13,050	1.9
Glenrowan Archaeological Investigation (Ann Jones Site)	\$121,000		\$17,000	\$80,000	\$16,000	\$234,000	1.9
GV Auto Club - New Generator	\$16,500	\$22,500				\$39,000	2.4
* GV Fruit New Technology	\$1,078,000	\$4,500,000				\$5,578,000	5.2
Harrierville Power Cable Replacement	\$15,420	\$7,200			\$5,200	\$27,820	1.8
Highlands Creative Community Hall	\$56,222	\$1,810	\$3,000	\$44,976	\$17,270	\$123,278	2.2
Honeysuckle Recreational Environment Project	\$75,075	\$6,740	\$2,000	\$64,488	\$110,130	\$258,433	3.4
* Industrial Estate Improvements - Teson & Trims	\$19,187	\$16,943	\$16,943	\$16,943		\$70,015	3.6
Kilmore Bowling Green Up-Grade	\$95,700	\$37,701	\$3,000	\$31,484	\$16,200	\$184,085	1.9

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

Kilmore Family Community Centre (Stage 2)	\$275,000		\$200,000	\$250,000		\$725,000	2.6
Kinglake West Community Development	\$103,136		\$ 80,000		\$13,760	\$196,896	1.9
King's Park Community Enhancement Project	\$215,600	\$179,000	\$117,820	\$283,500	\$204,360	\$1,000,280	4.6
* Lake Mountain Snow Management System	\$495,000	\$450,000	\$10,000	\$710,000	\$20,000	\$1,685,000	3.4
Lake Rowan Community Hall	\$92,400	\$6,000	\$30,000	\$80,000		\$208,400	2.3
Mansfield Community Shed	\$84,277	\$12,587	\$4,499	\$2,000	\$24,574	\$127,937	1.5
Mansfield High Country Interpretive & Information Centre	\$261,800	\$275,000	\$275,000	\$675,000		\$1,486,800	5.7
Merrijig Community Hall - A Community Heart	\$33,000	\$15,000	\$60,000	\$220,000	\$15,000	\$343,000	10.4
Mitchell-Murrindindi-Mansfield Rail Trail	\$49,500		\$45,000		\$15,000	\$109,500	2.2
Mount Beauty Children's Centre	\$139,700	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$160,000		\$429,700	3.1
Ned Kelly Interpretive Trail & Touring Route	\$75,900		\$69,000		\$6,000	\$150,900	2.0
North Shepparton Community Hub	\$979,000	\$69,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,975,000	\$120,000	\$4,143,000	4.2
Numurkah Community Centre	\$220,000	\$262,524			\$7,500	\$490,024	2.2
Numurkah Showgrounds Redevelopment	\$550,000	\$200,000	\$500,000	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$2,450,000	4.5
* Olive Oil - Pressing Needs	\$275,000	\$230,000			\$32,000	\$512,000	1.9
Oxley Hall Completion of Restoration	\$72,600	\$21,000	\$65,000			\$158,600	2.2
Purchase Kelly & Lewis Locomotive 5957	\$46,300	\$1,640	\$5,000		\$7,060	\$60,000	1.3
Redevelopment of The Hub - Mooroopna	\$275,000		\$1,907,263	\$577,500	\$21,500	\$2,781,263	10.1
Ruffy Rural Fire Brigade Truck	\$27,500	\$99,600		\$35,833		\$162,933	5.9
* Rutherglen Community E Commerce Platform	\$41,933	\$30,000			\$10,000	\$81,933	2.0
Rutherglen Fire Brigades Group Forward Command Vehicle	\$16,500	\$4,000	\$1,000	\$22,000		\$43,500	2.6
Seymour Sports & Aquatic Centre Redevelopment	\$55,000		\$50,000			\$105,000	1.9
Strengthening Strathbogie	\$38,500			\$35,000		\$73,500	1.9
Swanpool Lights	\$9,942	\$10,000				\$19,942	2.0
* Taste Factory - Cobram	\$697,672	\$1,165,759	\$32,480	\$110,017	\$89,929	\$2,095,857	3.0
Violet Town GP Medical Centre (RMIF)	\$367,010	\$306,445			\$26,000	\$699,455	1.9
Waaia Community Function Centre	\$137,115	\$30,000	\$100,000	\$124,650		\$391,765	2.9
Wangaratta HP Barr Reserve Community Centre Redevelopment	\$742,500	\$80,000	\$575,000		\$20,000	\$1,417,500	1.9
Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre	\$550,000		\$4,500,000	\$2,630,590		\$8,130,590	14.8

Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

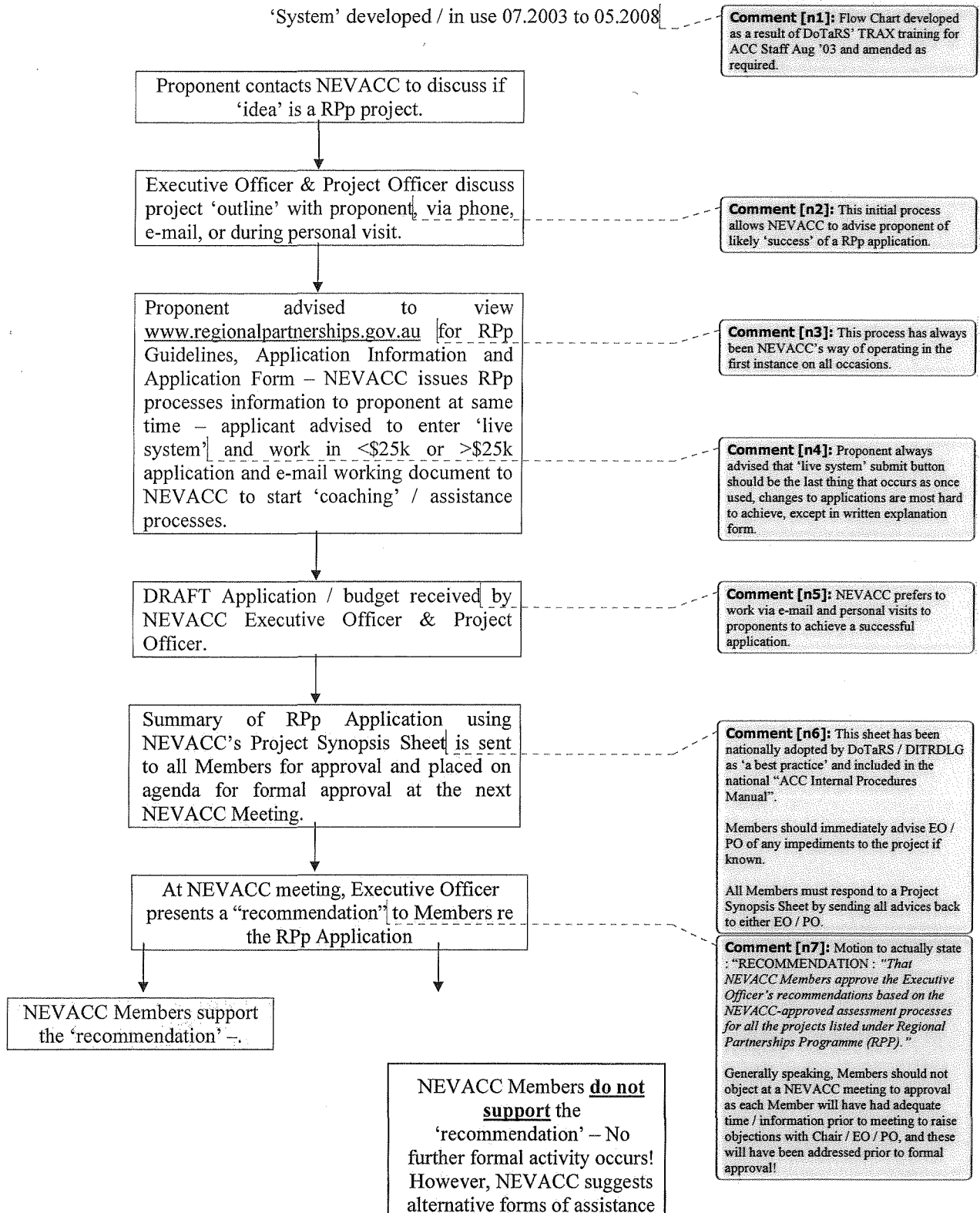
Wangaratta Visitors Centre Multi Media Installation	\$143,000		\$259,500			\$402,500	2.8
Yarrowonga Skate Park	\$66,000	\$72,000	\$25,000			\$163,000	2.5
Yea Clock Tower Project	\$19,800	\$18,000		\$1,000		\$38,800	2.0
<i>Wallan Community Centre ("2005 Election promise") [paid from RPP]</i>	\$2,200,000		\$300,000	\$1,000,000		\$3,500,000	1.6
	\$14,003,123.00	\$11,658,978.50	\$12,094,304.50	\$12,632,339.50	\$1,335,566.00	\$52,149,312.00	3.7
Projects approved	53						
Total Investment in NEV via RPP	\$14,003,123.00				Total Investment in NEV =	\$52,149,312	
[Average RPP \$s : approval]	\$264,209.87				Average investment / project =	\$983,949	
	Regional	Non-Gov't	Local	Other	In-Kind	Total	RPP
* Private enterprise approvals	P'ships \$s	Partners	Gov't \$'s	Gov't \$s		Project \$s	\$1 : \$1
* D & R Henderson Saw Mill Redevelopment	\$792,000	\$1,353,568				\$2,145,568	2.7
* Enterprise Park, Benalla	\$323,949	\$799,421		\$7,359		\$1,130,729	3.5
* Fruitgrowers' Victoria	\$6,750	\$1,500			\$4,800	\$13,050	1.9
* GV Fruit New Technology	\$1,078,000	\$4,500,000				\$5,578,000	5.2
* Industrial Estate Improvements - Teson & Trims	\$19,187	\$16,943	\$16,943	\$16,943		\$70,015	3.6
* Lake Mountain Snow Management System	\$495,000	\$450,000	\$10,000	\$710,000	\$20,000	\$1,685,000	3.4
* Olive Oil - Pressing Needs	\$275,000	\$230,000			\$32,000	\$512,000	1.9
* Rutherglen Community E Commerce Platform	\$41,933	\$30,000			\$10,000	\$81,933	2.0
* Taste Factory - Cobram	\$697,672	\$1,165,759	\$32,480	\$110,017	\$89,929	\$2,095,857	3.0
	\$3,729,491	\$8,547,191	\$59,423	\$844,319	\$24,800	\$13,312,152	3.6

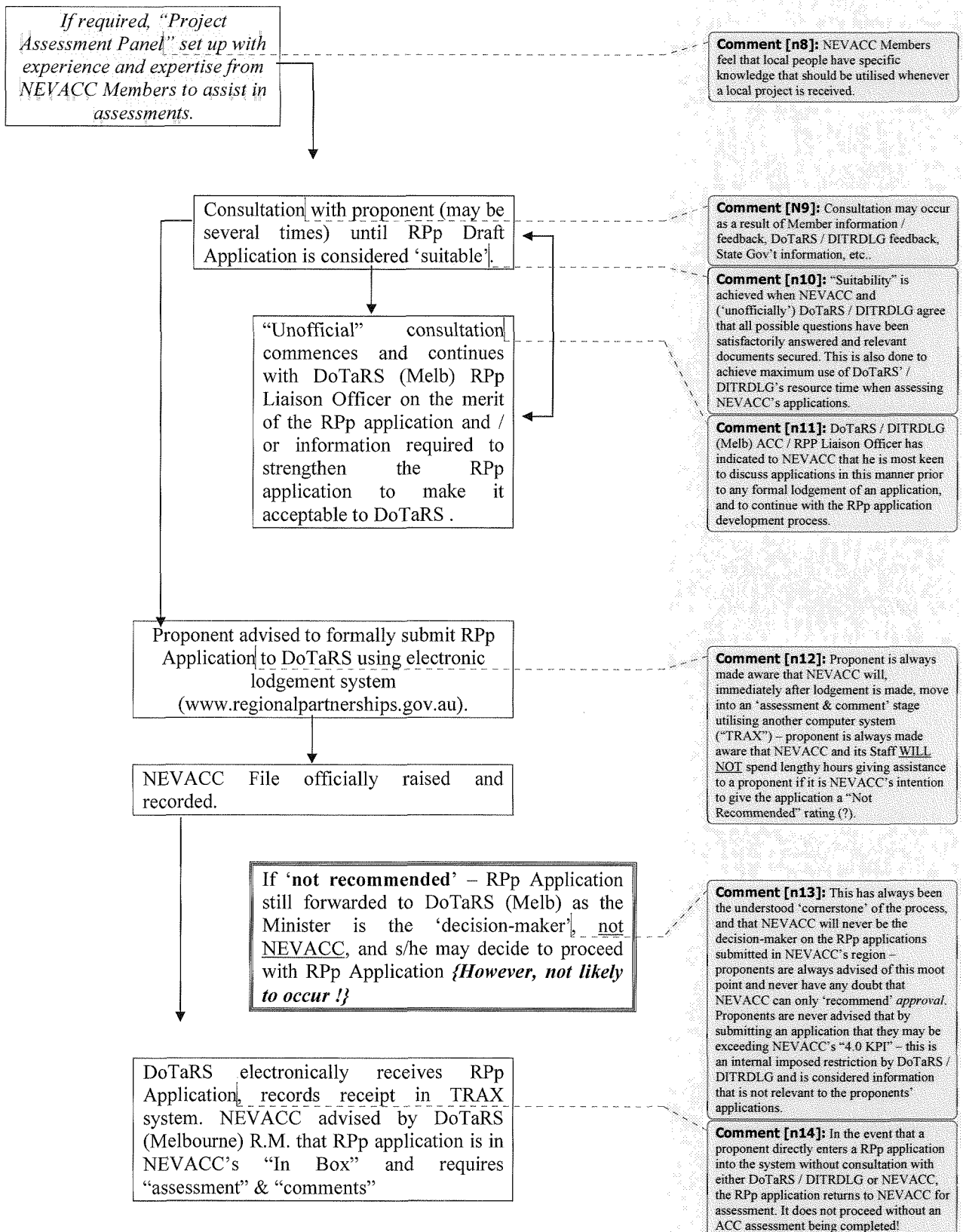
Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program

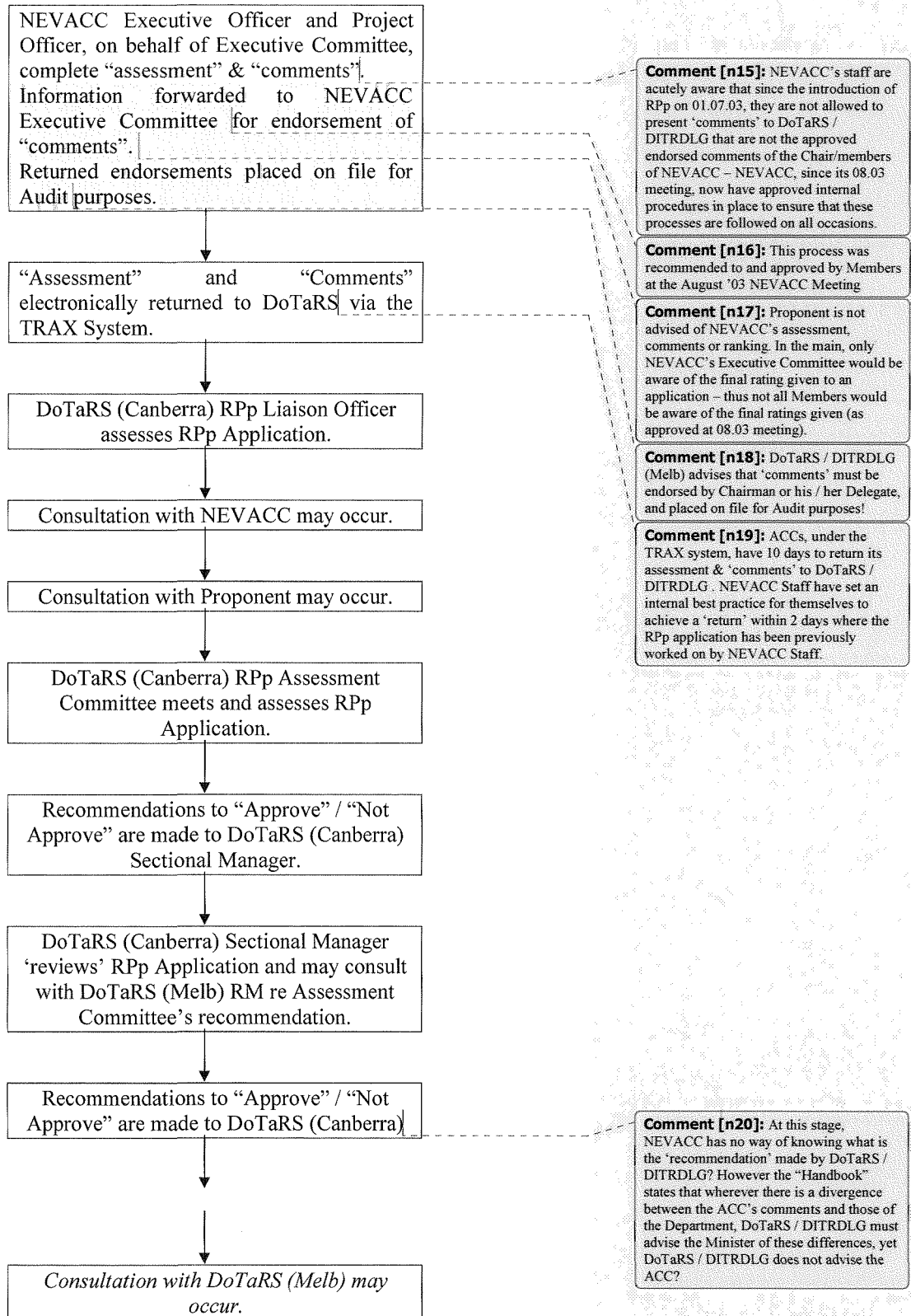
Regional Partnerships programme (RPP)

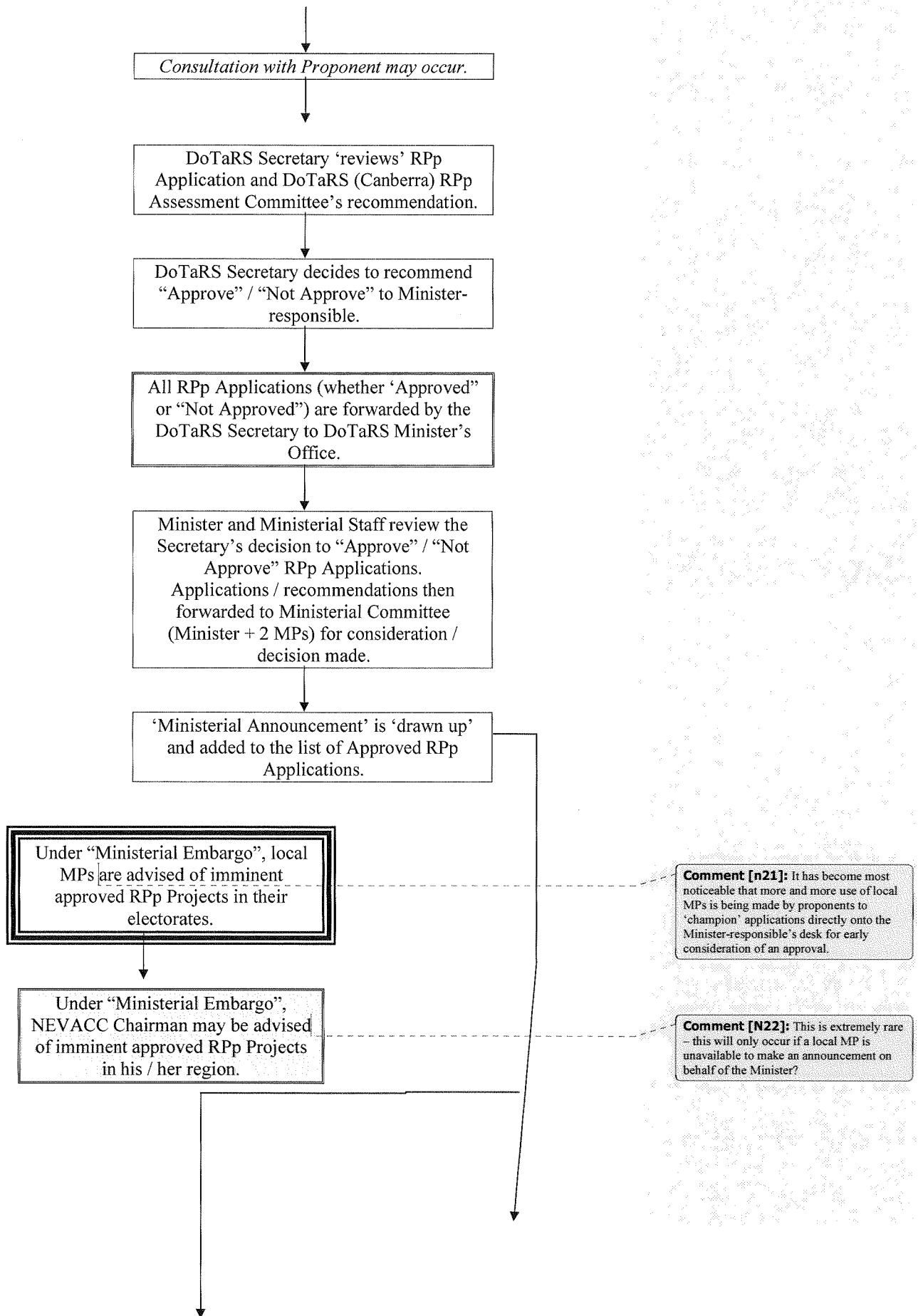
“Application Movement Chart”

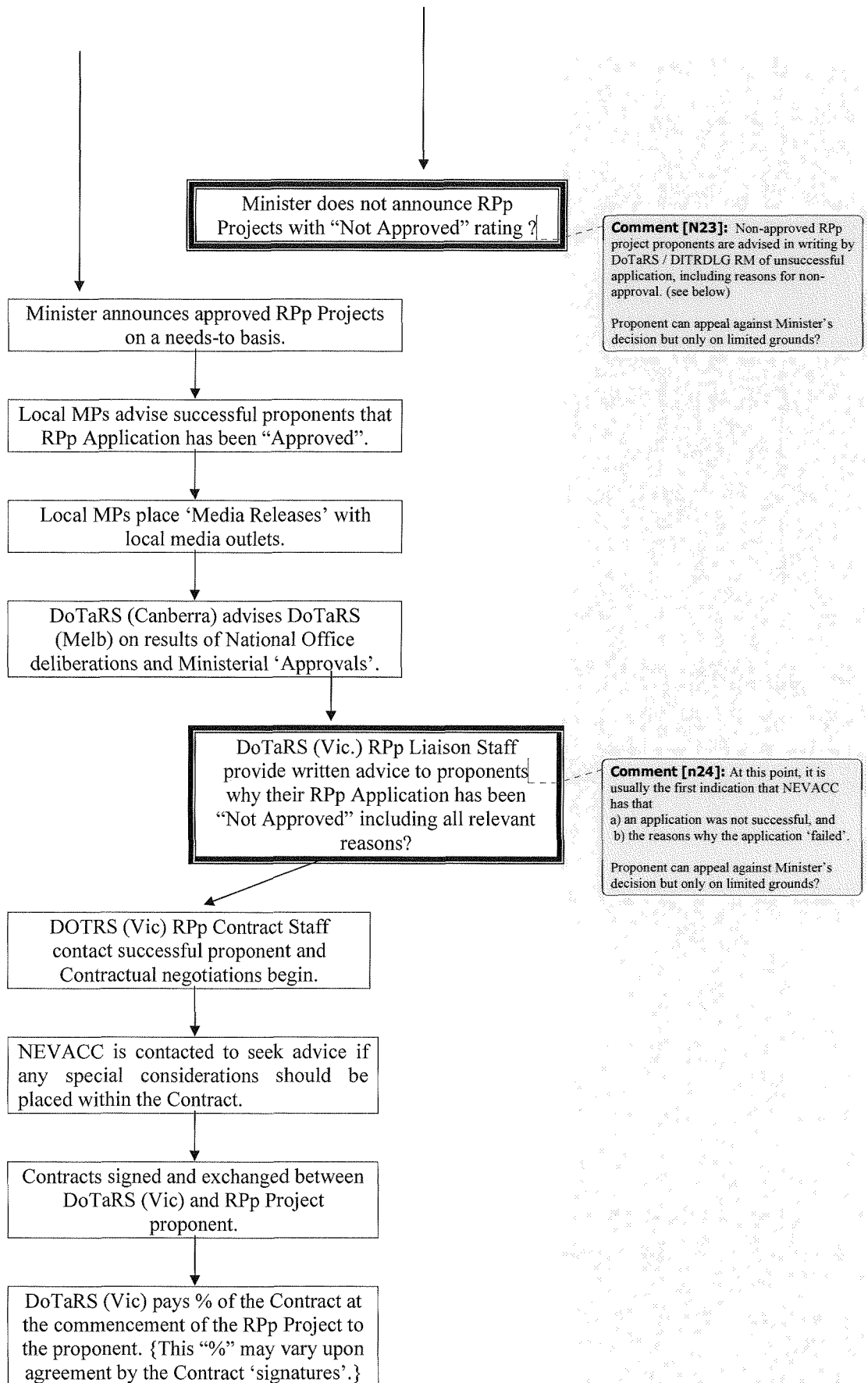
‘System’ developed / in use 07.2003 to 05.2008

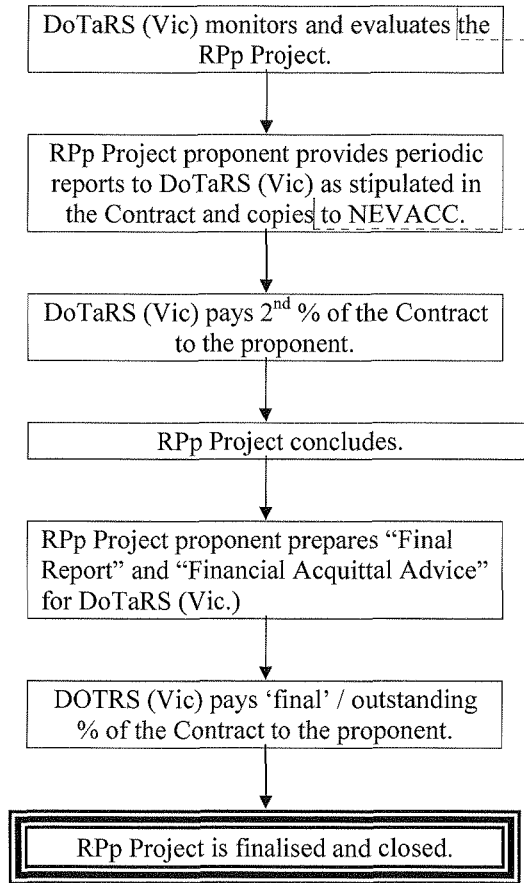












Comment [n25]: DoTaRS may ask NEVACC to assist in this process.

NEVACC maintains a 'watching brief' and immediately reports to DoTaRS / DITRDLG if there are apparent problems with the project.

NEVACC Members maintain a 'watching brief' on local approved RPP projects.

Comment [n26]: Placed on file and held in NEVACC's office.

In later years, NEVACC never received copies of the Contract nor periodic Reports.