

30<sup>th</sup> June 2008  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure,  
Transport, Regional Development and  
Local Government.  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
Canberra  
ACT 2600

### **Inquiry into a new Regional Development Funding Program.**

With reference to the above inquiry, the Moyne Shire Council respectfully makes the following submission-

#### Howard Government-past directions.

- Regarding funding submissions made to the former Department of Transport and Regional Services-Regional Partnerships Program, we advise that there were a number of projects that were uncontracted. They therefore did not proceed beyond the term of the Howard Government. These projects continue to be of vital significance to Council and to local regional communities.
- Concerning those projects that were contracted and therefore still receive Federal funding, they are continuing to add benefit and value to those respective local communities. Council appreciates the assistance provided by the Federal Government in helping to develop local communities.
- The application process in regards to the Regional Partnerships program was both tedious and cumbersome. The time spent in preparing the application could have been made efficient by completing a simpler format.


#### Rudd Government-future directions.

- Any future funding arrangements concerning Regional Development needs, as far as practicable, to be on the broadest possible terms. This would allow Councils the opportunity to direct funding to the projects that are most critical to that Shire, those that meet community needs, instead of being constrained by restrictive application criteria.
- There should be no deadlines attached to lodging an application for Regional Funding. There have been in the past unrealistic application deadlines set. Council is conscious of the fact that all applications should be well researched and comprehensively documented. By

having open ended submissions time lines, applications will receive more detailed attention to preparation.

- Decisions made concerning the outcome of applications, successful or otherwise, need to be made in a timely manner. This would avoid instances of projects exceeding budgets due to excessive time lags causing price escalations and consequent blowouts.
- Area Consultative Committees have proven to be of immense benefit to the overall application process and their role should be maintained and further developed.

Council thanks the Rudd Government for the opportunity to make a submission to this inquiry.



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Chief Executive Officer  
Moyne Shire Council.

