

House of Representatives Inquiry Submission Wheatbelt Region

Closing Date for Submission - Monday 14th July 2008

Please complete as many pages as required

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Position Role (if applicable):
Organisation (if applicable): SHIRE OF TRAYNING
Region: Wheatbelt Region
Signature:
1. Please provide your thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must ensure that smaller Rural and Remote Communities are not disadvantaged in terms of eligibility for Regional Funding, otherwise their ability to fund facilities for their communities will be severely hampered. • Ensure that guidelines for funding are not focussed on larger Regional Urban areas. • It is essential that Rural and Remote areas are supported in their endeavours to plan for required infrastructure to ensure that genuine needs are identified, further developed and refined through to project completion. • Continue to encourage the aspect of financial 'partnerships' from various groups and funding sources for the proposed new program to ensure viability of projects. • The application form for similar funding program in the future be simplified without repetition while still encouraging a focus on specific areas of the projects. • Maintain the reporting and acquittal processes as for the old regional partnerships program.
2. How should the Federal Government design regional programs in a way to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The regional programs should ensure that there is a local input and support the involvement of people who are familiar with the situation of the local community and their needs in terms of specific projects. This will assist with the assurance that projects are genuine, viable, sustainable and ultimately successful. • Maintaining a role similar to the current ACC is of vital importance to communities in terms of skill development and project management.

Forward Submission to –

Email: itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au

Post: Committee Secretary; Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government; PO Box 6021; House of Representatives; Parliament House; CANBERRA ACT 2600
(Note- In order to facilitate electronic publishing of submissions, the Committee would prefer posted submissions to be sent on disk or CD-ROM in Microsoft Word® or Portable Document Format (PDF).

- **The link provided by the ACC's between the Federal Government and the local communities is extremely valuable and supports and encourages people in the regional areas to develop the skills required to further develop and implement their projects.**

- **Staff and community members of the Shire of Trayning have utilised various valuable resources provided by our local Wheatbelt ACC including grant writing seminars, expo's and workshops, project and business planning workshops, and developing strategic plans. We have also involved their expertise in community liaison and facilitation of a community consultation session for the purpose of developing a local facilities plan.**

- **In order to avoid duplication of services and taxpayer money it is strongly recommended that the existing ACC staff and structures be retained. The Wheatbelt ACC uses local knowledge and people, therefore avoiding the need to retrain staff on local issues, history on the local areas and their needs and the relationship of each local area with their surrounding district.**

3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.

Unable to comment

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.

Unable to comment