

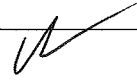
# House of Representatives Inquiry Submission SUBMISSION 71

## Wheatbelt Region

**Closing Date for Submission - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008**

*Please complete as many pages as required*

Name: Rebecca McCall
Position Role (if applicable): Manager Economic Development
Organisation (if applicable): Shire of Moora
Region: Wheatbelt Region
<b>Signature:</b>
<p>1. Please provide your thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.</p> <p>It is my belief that that the previous funding available through the Regional Partnerships Program was genuine and accountable. It was an excellent opportunity for modern community infrastructure to be developed and allowing services and facilities not traditionally available in the regions closing the gap between our city cousins.</p>
<p>2. How should the Federal Government design regional programs in a way to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.</p> <p>Regional programs should be designed at a federal level with on ground support available within the regions so an understanding of regions needs is established. A direct link with local officers and the federal government would minimise costs and duplication. State government does not need to be involved. One would assume that removing a workable program all in existence and recreating a similar program would create additional and unnecessary costs and duplication for taxpayers.</p>
<p>3. Examine the former government's practices and grants outlined in the Australian National Audit Office report on Regional Partnerships <a href="http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61">http://www.anao.gov.au/director/publications/auditreports/2007-2008.cfm?item_id=40BC1C6C1560A6E8AAA43AAB96708E61</a> with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.</p> <p>Findings in 2003 should have been addressed there and then, learnt from and practices put in place to ensure similar issues do not reoccur. There is not enough evidence to justify the decision to pull the Regional Partnerships Program. This poor decision has not had adequate foresight and will result in delayed growth and development within the regions whilst the new program is implemented.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>Any dealings experienced at within this local government level with the program have resulted in a clear, concise and accountable manner. The processes set in place were adequate and justified, more importantly in gave the regions the opportunity to develop infrastructure to encourage economic and social growth.</p>



*Forward Submission to -*

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**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).)*

