

Your reference
Our reference
Contact Officer Matthew Mulronev
Telephone 07 3810 7305



Ipswich City Council

45 Roderick St
PO Box 191
Ipswich QLD 4305
Australia

Tel (07) 3810 6666
Fax (07) 3810 6731
Email council@ipswich.qld.gov.au
Web www.ipswich.qld.gov.au

The Secretary
The Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government.
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

16 July 2008

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Inquiry into a new Regional Development funding program

Ipswich City Council has considered the terms of reference for the above inquiry and wish to offer the following for the committee's consideration:

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

- Development of a process to allow consultation and comment from Local Governments prior to approval for projects in which funding is requested. This will ensure that the projects are consistent with the strategic priorities of the Local Government and assistance can be provided when needed.
- Community consultation guidelines should be developed to ensure that reliable consultation is undertaken in the preparation of funding submissions.
- Development of a streamlined application process with clear guidelines. The current guidelines for the Regional Partnerships Program are far too subjective and open to differing interpretations.

Question 2: Examine ways to minimise administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers.

- Consideration towards delegation for Executive Officer approval for small funding submissions. In the past the time taken to receive approval for small but regionally significant projects has been excessive.
- That firm timeframes be set for the approval or rejection of funding submissions.

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

The ANAO made some 20 recommendations relating to the administrative processes of the RPP, the lack of consistency and the complexity of the approval process. Council supports the findings of the audit and looks forward to seeing the suggested improvements implemented.

Question 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.

Ipswich City Council is unaware of the internal practices prior to the ANAO Audit. Therefore, it would be inappropriate for Council to comment.

Yours sincerely



Craig Maudsley
Chief Operating Officer
Health Parks and Recreation