



Our Reference: 05/08/001:AMM:alc
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27th June, 2008

Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
PO Box 6021
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Inquiry Into a New Regional Development Funding Program

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future funding of regional programs and Regional Partnerships Program.

Horsham Rural City Council considers it imperative that a federal regional development fund program be made available to support local and regional projects that are responsive to community need, and developed through "community planning" and "community development" approaches.

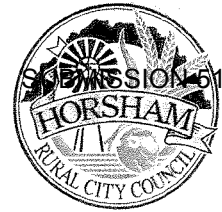
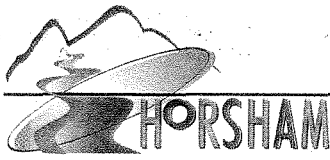
Councils and communities are now recognising the value of community engagement processes that ensures communities work together in a collaborative way to identify community priorities. This provides the "evidence" and "demonstrated community benefit" for all levels of government – that is, local State and Federal to support collectively.

Community infrastructure is critical to supporting the growth of regional and local areas. Horsham Rural City Council is undertaking detailed planning for:-

1. community, education and care facility in Horsham North, an area of high social disadvantage; and
2. redevelopment of Horsham's major performing arts facility.

The two projects represent major infrastructure projects for Council. Council would expect that partners for funding include all levels of government to support community need.

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2.

A Federal Government development program similar to the Regional Partnerships Program is essential to the development and liveability of regional and local communities.

Council would be pleased to provide further information.

Yours faithfully

KV SHADE (Mr)
Chief Executive Officer

cc: Mr John Forrest, MHR, Federal Member for Mallee

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13 JUL 2008

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORT
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT