



10th July 2008

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

Dear Sir

REGIONAL FUNDING PROGRAMS

I write on behalf of our not-for-profit Foundation which operates Australia's last whaling station as an internationally recognised iconic heritage asset on behalf of the Australian and, in particular, regional community.

OUR PROJECT

We were a beneficiary of a Regional Partnerships grant of \$166,000 towards the construction of a 110m Breakwater and landing facilities for both commercial and recreational users as well as recreational fishing facilities. This is the only safe harbour on the southern shores of King George Sound

The stakeholders and contributions are as follows:

\$ 800,000	State of Western Australia (via the Great Southern Development Commission)
\$ 166,000	DOTARS (via Regional Partnerships program)
\$ 166,000	Our Foundation's contribution
\$1,132,000	Project Total

Our project was beset by a number of problems and delays, but since completion of the core project as a public facility for which we have assumed management responsibility for the benefit of the community, further enhancements have been added including a second recreational pontoon.

It now also boasts the only safe fishing platform in the Great Southern region with access for the disabled as well as fish cleaning facilities and solar lighting. These enhancements were funded by three stakeholders

\$ 26,319	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Recreational Community Fishing Grant of \$28,951 incl GST)
\$ 36,196	Great Southern Development Commission
\$ 36,460	Our Foundation's additional contribution
\$ 98,975	Enhancement Project Total

In other words, the Regional Partnerships program has played a significant role in the development of a major regional tourism and public recreational and water safety infrastructure as was the true purpose of the program.

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS VS OTHER GRANTS PROGRAMS

The role of the Regional Partnerships program can not be underestimated and its continuation in some similar form is critical to projects such as ours.

The flexibility and scope of the Regional Partnerships program was an important aspect that should be continued because other funding programs such as the Australian Tourism Development Program had limited applicability and funding ranges (Category 1 - \$50,000 to \$100,000).



Whale World is a community project of The Jaycees Community Foundation Inc. ABN 24 331 127 312

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MINIMISING ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND DUPLICATION FOR TAXPAYERS

Also, with a success rate of only 10%, ATDP applicants who had generally spent weeks preparing comprehensive grant applications to find that they were in the unsuccessful 90%, would understandably be extremely disappointed and discouraged from making further applications despite the merit of their projects.

We can speak from experience and only our persistence saw us succeed with our third consecutive application – even though we had an entirely unique project that could not be compared with other applicants. This involved countless hours in preparing applications, assembling the necessary letters of support and quotations. We were grateful to be a beneficiary of \$60,000 being 50% of the cost of our new whale skeleton display [see *AusIndustry website - Success Story August 2006*]. Others are unlikely to be so persistent.

A Two Step Process – To save time and angst

While recognising that there is not a bottomless pit of funding in any program and projects should, quite rightly, be assessed on a competitive basis, a streamlined two step process would be a great improvement to all competitive grant programs.

We would propose that Step 1 involve an Expression of Interest with sufficient detail to set out the objectives, broad costs, stakeholders (and their proposed contributions), a general indication of level of community support and benefits. This is where assessment by a local committee similar to the previous Area Consultative Committee would be invaluable in determining the merit of the project within the local environment.

After preliminary assessment and having regard to the available pool of funds, those with a reasonable prospect of success would be invited to submit a comprehensive full application. This process is utilised with great success in the Regional Development Scheme administered by the Great Southern Development Commission.

This method would reduce the disenchantment of those unsuccessful at Step 1 as their time and expense would be considerably reduced and those invited to submit a full application would at least know that they have a reasonable prospect (but not guarantee) of success.

We urge your Committee to seriously reconsider a regional grants program in a general form of Regional Partnerships, the reinstatement of Area Consultative Committees as a filtering mechanism for government and emphasis the importance of both to the success of regional development.

Yours sincerely



Peter J. Snow
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
THE JAYCEES COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INC.



DOTARS Regional Partnerships Grant JETTY PROJECT - PROGRESSIVE PICTURES



**TOURISM MINISTER MARK MCGOWAN (CENTRE) VISIT 5/9/05
PETER SNOW (JCF) (LEFT) & NEIL AUGUSTSON (TOURISM WA)**



BREAKWATER UNDER CONSTRUCTION 26/10/05



BREAKWATER UNDER CONSTRUCTION 28/10/05



BREAKWATER UNDER CONSTRUCTION 26/10/05



WHY A RECREATIONAL PONTOON ADDITION IS DESIRABLE 16/11/05



NAVIGATION BEACON 31/1/06



NAVIGATION BEACON AND PATH 16/2/06



NAVIGATION BEACON AND PATH 16/2/06



PONTOON UNDER CONSTRUCTION 15/2/06



CONCRETE PATHWAY COMPLETED 16/2/06



PONTOON INSTALLED 3/5/06



PONTOON INSTALLED 3/5/06

ENHANCEMENTS TO BREAKWATER



Pre-construction – why there was a need



Signs were ignored – safety was at risk



Safe fishing platform



Fishing cleaning facilities



Safe fishing platform with solar-powered night lighting



Solar-powered light over fish cleaning table and pergola