

July 2008

Response to Inquiry into a New Regional Development Funding Program

- PART 1. Executive Summary**
Part 2. Detailed Response

Party to the Response

This response is made by Interim Chief Executive Officer, Caloundra City Enterprises Pty Ltd., Ms.Gerrie Carr-MacFie.

Caloundra City Enterprises Pty Ltd (CCE), and the trading entity Sunshine Coast Enterprises, is a company supported by operational funding from the Sunshine Coast Regional Council. Sunshine Coast Enterprises is operated by a small paid executive under the direction of a skilled volunteer board derived from small to medium enterprise developers, corporate stakeholders and Councillor representation. All parties are committed to advancing a stronger and more diverse regional economy in the area of Sunshine Coast Queensland. Caloundra City Enterprises has a mandate to develop and deliver regional capacity building initiatives with particular emphasis on the south sub-region of Sunshine Coast formerly designated as Caloundra City municipal area.

Executive Officer Gerrie Carr-MacFie is an experienced economic development practitioner.

In March 2007 Gerrie moved to the Sunshine Coast accepting the position of Economic Policy Manager Caloundra City Council. In January 2008 Gerrie assumed the position of CEO of Caloundra City Enterprises on behalf of Council. She is currently a representative on the Local Government Association Queensland (LGAQ) Economic Development Reference Group. Gerrie has previously worked in CEO roles in regional development agencies, policy roles in State and Commonwealth government, and as a private development consultant throughout Victoria. Her career includes extensive work as a committee representative and as an Executive Officer within the national network of Area Consultative Committees.

This response has been informed by the professional experience of the author, and informal discussion with various Council officers, regional development and tourism industry stakeholders, and local business leaders and Councillors.

1. Executive Summary:

This inquiry represents an opportunity for community and regional development agencies to inform and influence Australian Government policy and funding programs that can assist and direct investment that builds productivity gains, fosters economic prosperity and growth, and enhances the environmental capital and liveability of regions.

All parties consulted with through Caloundra City Enterprises in responding to the House of Representatives Issues Paper July 2008 titled A New Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program express a commitment to ensuring regional development initiatives of the Australian Government incorporate the following values and activities:

- **Funded initiatives and interventions reflect and are aligned with community will, and address identified regional and local priorities.**
- **Funded initiatives and interventions are solutions to regional and rural disadvantage that are developed and owned by local communities rather than delivered into communities by external agencies.**
- **Funded initiatives and interventions provide for maximising efficient use of public and private funds without onerous and unduly bureaucratic application processes and reporting procedures.**
- **The proposed Regional Development Australia initiative includes community and stakeholder representation that acts apolitically and is representative of community, business and government interests.**

A detailed response to the Issues Paper July 2008 is at Attachment 2.

Response authored by :

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