



**The Honourable Desley Boyle MP**  
Member for Cairns



SUBMISSION 219

**Queensland  
Government**

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**Minister for Tourism, Regional  
Development and Industry**

- 3 JUL 2008

Ms Catherine King MP  
Committee Chair  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government  
PO Box 6021  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

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Dear Ms King

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 2008 regarding the inquiry into a new regional grant program. I welcome the opportunity to provide the attached submission to the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government.

Regional development is a priority for the Queensland Government, as growing Queensland's regions is the key to our economic strength and managing our population growth. In order to promote regional growth, government activity needs to stimulate the different economic strengths and opportunities in each region to enhance community lifestyle and make regional areas attractive places to live.

A new regional grants program should therefore provide funding for significant projects that will provide economic or social benefit to a broad geographic area. This should be based on a vision for the region that is expressed through existing or developing partnerships between government, industry and community. Examples of this sort of partnership program being implemented in Queensland include:

- The Centres of Enterprise initiative, which aims to build the economic strength of Queensland's regions by developing action plans which focus State Government and industry resources on regional industry sectors with significant potential to attract new investment, expand business and drive local economies forward.
- The High Growth Regions Development Strategy, which aims to encourage sustainable growth and development, identify key economic development strategies, ensure integrated social and physical infrastructure planning and promote regional opportunities and lifestyles.

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- The Partnership Agreement being developed by the Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry between the Queensland Government, the Queensland Resource Council and the Local Government Association of Queensland. The Agreement recognises joint responsibility in relation to social issues in resource communities and provides for regular meetings at a high level to discuss these issues and agree on solutions.

Aligning Commonwealth funding with projects that have a strong emphasis on whole-of-Government, community and industry partnerships will provide major benefits to regional Australia. Significant regional projects will potentially receive support from all levels of government, which raises the likelihood of success, rather than funding being provided to a range of smaller projects, which may not contribute to regional development priorities.

I would welcome the Queensland Government's involvement in any future discussions on this matter, including participation in any workshops.

Yours sincerely



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