



09-07-08

Attn: C. Baker
 Executive Officer
 Ipswich & Regional ACC
 PO Box 377
 Ipswich Qld 4305

Dear Mrs. Baker:

RE: House of Representatives Standing Committee Enquiry into a new regional development funding program

I thought I would take the opportunity to give you some feedback on our project that was started with the assistance of funding from the DRAP. Without the government funding, our project would not have gone ahead. As it was we have just scraped through and become a viable company through six years of hard work. Skepticism was high among local investors as to whether we could create a wine industry in this region, but we have. There are now six cellar doors in our wine trail and we make wine for three companies in the region and twenty other companies in other regional areas of Queensland. Ipswich Tourism tells us that we are having more of a tourist impact on the region than the Workshops Railway Museum – a government funded 30 million dollar project. We now have a total of 12 full and casual positions in this company alone, even in these tough times in the wine industry. We are actively exporting to North America, indeed are about to send our fourth shipment. We have put three trainees through our business already, with one of them winning Australian trainee of the year. We are now seeking further shareholding in the local market to more than double the size of our company to be better able to support the businesses that we make wine for across south-east Queensland.

It is my view that it is very appropriate for private enterprise to be partially funded by public money. We are a model case in point. No one in this business has absconded with public money. The project is traveling as it said it would and has increased employment to the region and has increased tourist spending in the region. We make a point here of purchasing our supplies from local suppliers whenever this is possible, right down to purchasing fruit and veg from the green grocer down the road rather than Woolies, our meat from an Ipswich butcher, our wine supplies from a Brisbane supplier rather than one in Melbourne or Sydney. We employ local talent for our entertainment and rent warehouse space for our wine barrels in a nearby town because we have already run out of space at the winery due to the expansion of our business. I might make the following suggestion if the federal

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government is wary of providing funding in the future to private enterprise:

Our business was established as an unlisted public company which of course has a board of directors. Such companies must have an audit every year and all directors bear legal responsibility for the proper running of the company and disbursement of its funds. It is not possible for me as the chairman of the board to remove money from this company for my own uses without running into serious trouble with the legal system and possibly facing incarceration as a result. Not so with a private company such as a partnership or sole trader. This may be a valuable consideration in decisions as to what type of private enterprise company might be eligible for government assistance. The upfront costs of establishing a public company are not large. The government could also insist that some of the board members of the newly formed company be respected identities in the local business or cultural community and also have no financial interest in the company.

I would like to see the success of future projects being determined by an overseeing non-government national committee of the ACC/RDA without any interference or influence by Canberra politicians. I can't see decisions made in Canberra being a useful way of deciding whether or not money should be allocated to a private business or community project for that matter. In our case, people from the ACC and DOTARS came out on site visits and were intimately aware of where we wanted to head as a business and why we needed the government assistance. Talking to someone in Canberra about the success or failure of one's project would be analogous to trying to borrow money from a bank in Sydney who never came out to actually see your business.



Kevin Watson
C.E.O and Winemaker
Marburg Custom Crush Ltd.



Lockyer Water Users Forum

Lockyer Water Users Forum Inc.

PO Box 61
FOREST HILL QLD 4342

03/07/08

Cindy Baker
Executive Officer
Ipswich and Regional Area Consultative Committee Inc

Dear Cindy,

Thankyou for the opportunity to have input to the Inquiry into the National Regional Partnership Program.

As you are aware, our organisation, the Lockyer Water Users Forum Inc. (LWUF) was successful in seeking funding through the program. The money raised through the program, combined with the money put in by the proponents has certainly being used to further advance the outcomes sought through the application process.

The Lockyer Water Users Forum Inc. specifically sought funds to further the investigation of the Lockyer and Mid Brisbane Recycled Water Distribution Project.

At this point, although there have been changes to the contractual arrangement, including an application for variation to the original contract that as yet has not been determined, the project has continued. All be it in a lesser degree.

To date the proponents have –

- Compiled a business case for the project
- Successfully negotiated with the State of Queensland to secure 25000 mega litres of water per year from the South East Queensland Recycled Water Grid
- Held extensive community consultation
- Called for and received expressions of interest from the community that will form the customer base for the project
- Held extensive negotiations with both Federal and Sate Governments on the project

Although to date the Regional Partnership variation to contract has not received approval, the LWUFInc. has determined that it will proceed with further negotiations in order to continue the project. Be it in a lesser capacity without the assistance of the Regional Partnership Funding.

The project seeks to deliver a reliable water supply in order to secure the future of a horticultural region that will provide a food bowl on the City of Brisbane's door step.

Without the continuation of the Regional Partnership Funding, the committee's ability to continue to do its work will be diminished.

It has to be said that this program has given the community of the Lockyer Valley a "leg up" in order to bring a solution to a critical water supply issue. The degree of which, if a solution such as the Recycled Water Project does not come to fruition, will be devastating for the area as a food production centre.

I would like to thank the IRACC for the manner in which they conduct their business; however I cannot stress enough as to the importance of the continuation of the support offered by the Federal Government through the RPP process.

If I may comment on the process and procedure for applying for funds from the RPP, my only comment is that I have found the process to be very stringent. The program required all paper work to be in order and reports to be submitted on time. The program could be accused of being inflexible, although I do acknowledge that this goes part in part with Government monies.

To this extent I would have to say that the community is grateful for the support that it has received from the RPP process and looks forward to being involved in future initiatives in order to see the Recycled Water Distribution Project come to fruition.

I would like to thank the IRACC for it's support and assistance which it has offered in all aspects of the project, especially in relation to making sure that reports were delivered on time and in an appropriate format. The IACC has conducted an important role as the go-between or the conduit of information between the Government and the Community. I see the IACC has an important function to fulfil as a face to the community and that this role could be expanded to perform other services that the Australian Government may wish to implement.

Thankyou once again for the opportunity to comment,

Yours Sincerely,



Linton Brimblecombe
Chairman – Lockyer Water Users Forum Inc.



When calling ask for Geoffrey Smith

Mrs Cindy Baker
 Executive Officer
 Ipswich and Regional Area Consultative Committee
 P O Box 377
 IPSWICH QLD 4305

RECEIVED
 11 JUL 2008

BY:.....

Dear Madam

INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this inquiry.

The targeted direct additional jobs outlined in the Fernvale Futures Partnership project application were achieved however, of greater significance is the quantifiable additional visitor numbers to Fernvale and the region. Somerset Regional Council's Annual Report for 2006/2007 indicates a doubling of recorded visitors to the region since the Fernvale Futures Complex opened. Council is aware of economic models linking visitor numbers with employment. There has been major development in the area since the Fernvale Futures Partnership Project was completed.

One interesting indicator has been the development approval of two large electricity substations in the region (in Lowood, west of Fernvale and Esk, north of Fernvale) since 2006. Existing electricity infrastructure would not have coped with increasing demand from commercial and residential activities.

Local knowledge is vitally important in the development of projects. The Fernvale Futures Partnership Project took place only because a project team delivering major infrastructure (a dam spillway upgrade) in the local area (the Wivenhoe Alliance) were looking to invest in a piece of community infrastructure as a legacy of their project and contacted the local government to discuss delivery in the local area. Regional Partnerships meant that funding from the Wivenhoe Alliance (which involved two State Governments) and the Council could be leveraged to undertake a regionally significant project.

The funding arrangements that existed at the time of this project, including acquittal processes, were found to be satisfactory and Council was able to meet funding guidelines including obtaining audit certification from a major Chartered Accounting firm.

Please do not hesitate to contact Geoffrey Smith of Council should you require further information.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Payne".

Chris Payne
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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11 JUL 2008

10 July 2008

BY:

PLASVACC


Ms Cindy Baker
 Executive Officer
 Ipswich & Regional Area Consultative Committee Inc
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"PlasVac Development Project"

Dear Cindy,

RE: INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

Further to your letter dated 18th June 2008, please find enclosed a copy of our company's final report (as previously supplied to DOTARS) and the independent financial audit of the funding program.

Firstly, let me say, that the funding Plasvacc received under the Dairy Regional Assistance program has greatly assisted Plasvacc becoming the highly recognized regionally based business it is today.

Since Plasvacc received this grant in 2002 our business has expanded in many ways, a high percentage of our employees are local to this area. We have grown and developed over the past 6 years and as a result we have enticed a number of highly skilled employees, who have relocated their families to live in the Scenic Rim Region.

Using our high ambition and motivational skills we have expanded our facilities and developed new products causing an economic multiplier effect of 1:8 in the local economy. One of the most tangible benefits to the local community is the employment and training of unskilled ex dairy workers to a very high degree of technical ability. Our production staff have been recognised by the Brisbane North Institute of TAFE and awarded with recognition of prior learning, Vet Nurse Certificate II. Plasvacc was the first company to instigate this wonderful training program for in house staff to transform them into highly skilled and valuable employees.

From our corporate headquarters in Kalbar, situated in the Scenic Rim Region of South East Queensland we have expanded overseas with the purchase of our USA based company, Plasvacc USA Inc where we not only export our products to, but also provide locally developed expertise and research.

Finally, we have been recognised by our peers by being awarded the 2005 Queensland Primary Industries Achievement Awards for Most Outstanding Contribution to Primary Industries and for Research & Development. Plasvacc was also awarded finalist for The Premier of Queensland Smart Awards 2006 in Science, Innovation & Technology.

This has been a wonderful grant that has provided us with an opportunity of a life time to build our business into the regional success it has become today.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Macarthur
 Managing Director
Plasma & Vaccine Laboratories Pty Ltd (PlasVac)

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South East Queensland Olive Association Inc.

RECEIVED
11 JUL 2008
Br:

Ms Cindy Baker
Executive Officer
Ipswich and regional ACC
P.O. Box 377
IPSWICH 4305

10 July 2008

REGIONAL FUNDING

South East Queensland Olive Association (SEQOA) received a Commonwealth Regional Assistance Program (RAP) grant in 2002.

The object of this grant was to:

- Identify olive growers within the region. Confirm orchard sizes; species whether oil or table fruit varieties and market expectations of individual growers.
- Facilitate a regional forum for those growers to present their issues and concerns in order to develop an understanding of the needs of local growers, to inform participants of relevant financial and strategic issues, and to develop strategies for ongoing processing and marketing of their products.
- Encourage local growers to undertake further development in line with the outcomes of the forum, including hosting of the 2003 National Olive Conference in Queensland.
- Identify the potential for tourism ventures in the Region, in collaboration with current and proposed tourism ventures in allied agricultural and commercial sectors.
- Initiate the development of an olive oil processing plant within the Region that will provide both employment and maintain value added benefits to the Region.
- Identify the training requirement to meet the new industry employment opportunities of this new industry.
- Identify supply chains within this industry and associated industries.
- Form strategic alliances with similar industries in other intra- and interstate regions.

The support for this grant was widespread including all the mayors of the relevant Shires within the region, the Federal Australian Olive Association and other regional olive associations within Queensland.

The outcome of the grant was positive and its major objectives were met. However, as a region the olive industry is still in its infancy due to two major aspects.

1. The age of olive groves. It is only now in 2008 where olive groves are starting to reach commercial production levels.
2. The effect of drought and climate change on the yields of the maturing groves.

Following on from the grant there has been considerable private investment into the development of plants for processing both olive oil and table olives to cater for growers needs. There are also a number of local product brands now in the market place.

One important factor from the grant was the identification of the number of fruit suitable to be used for table olives and the possibilities to develop our region as being a premier region for Australian table fruit production. Our region has won national table olives awards and this clearly reflects to the market potential of table olives in our region.

On the national scene the National Australian Olive Association has also been subject to Federal grants to help the industry. The Rural Industry research and Development Corporation (RIRDC) consider the Australian olive industry to be very professional and well organised and fully supports the industry through ongoing research and development funding. This support no doubt reflects the downward organisational activity. To this end SEQOA as a local olive association has gone from strength to strength. The activities of the association cater for the wellbeing of their members towards learning and to the outcomes of the results obtained from the grant.

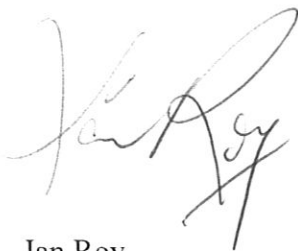
SEQOA considers the results of the grant to have been extremely beneficial to the olive industry in South East Queensland. Had the RAP grant failed it is considered the industry in our region would have struggled, and with little cohesion between growers there would have been the likelihood many growers would have walked away from the industry.

The assistance of Federal grants to organizations such as ours is invaluable in developing industries in their infancy. The grant covered a number of businesses across the industry rather than provide assistance for single business enterprises. It is felt that individual grants to enterprises not to be in the "spirit" of helping community services nor industries.

Future grant to assist the olive industry may include:

- Assessment of potential exports, markets and trade fairs.
- A grant to assist in the establishment of a Regional Processing and Packing Co-Op Plant at Lowood.
- Further education in trade courses associated with the industry.

The only improvement considered for the operation of a regional partnership program would be to localise the funding approval whereby local knowledge and appreciation of the scope of benefits to regions would be far beneficial than "ivory tower" management which is based on political motivation.

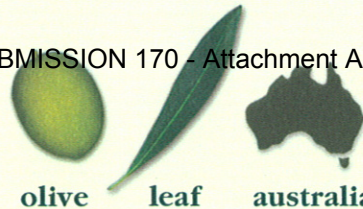


Ian Roy
President
South East Queensland Olive Association.

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BY:.....

SUBMISSION 170 - Attachment A



Olive Products Australia P/L

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30th June 2008

Cindy Baker
IRACC
PO Box 377
Ipswich QLD 4305

RE: House of Representatives Standing Committee Inquiry

Dear Cindy,

As a past recipient of a Regional Partnerships grant I can very happily support the effectiveness of the programme.

Being a relatively young company we received our grant at a very critical development stage and it allowed us to expand far more quickly than we could have without the grant assistance.

By far the most obvious area in which the grant helped us is that it provided us with the infrastructure needed to keep up with the fast-growing demand for our products. Our sales saw a 60% compound annual growth rate (CAGR) from 2001 to 2007 and the grant was essential to the capacity of our production and operations during the latter years.

Sales growth remains very strong especially in the new export markets which we have been confident enough to enter due to the increased production capacity that the grant gave us. The January to June 2008 export sales were more than \$1 million which is 123% up on the same period last year.

We expect even faster export sales growth from July 2008 onwards as we used the first six months of 2008 to consolidate our operations in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Ireland, South Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand and Japan. We now have dedicated staff on the ground in each of these markets and we are in the process of finalizing distribution into the United States and China.

Without the Regional Development Partnerships funding we would not have had the machinery, warehousing or other infrastructure necessary to enter these markets so confidently.

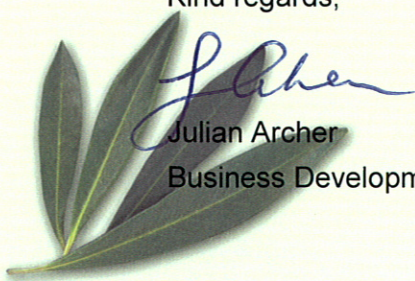
These increases in production capacity and sales have also allowed extra employment for both skilled and semi-skilled people living in our rural area.

I encourage the government decision makers to continue and even expand this excellent funding programme for all genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects. It is a great assistance to Australia's manufacturing, services and export companies.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Julian Archer'.

Julian Archer
Business Development Manager





24 June 2008

To Whom It May Concern

Outdoor Structures Australia (OSA) would like to make a submission to the to the enquiry being carried out by the House Standing committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government concerning a new regional development funding program.

OSA considers itself very fortunate to have received a grant to assist the development of a regional timber processing plant under the regional partnership program. We believe we are the market leader for innovation in the hardwood timber industry and in this position have been fortunate to obtain a number of grants from both federal and state programmes. The timber industry generally has very little innovation and the bigger the company, it seems, the less innovation there is. The various grants we have received have been instrumental in allowing us to make the jump from having an innovative idea to bringing it to fruition. Two of our product ranges, developed with small grants, are listed in the Australian Technology Showcase. Our business has now reached the size where we can now generally afford to do this work on our own.

During the 2006-7 financial year, OSA suffered the nightmare of severe industrial sabotage when a disgruntled employee went to a local timber producer to teach them our business. In the process he took a number of clients, severely impacting on our profitability. We reasoned that if they were going to copy us, the only way to compete was to reinvent ourselves and produce new and better quality products. We have succeeded in this. A recently completed project can be seen at <http://www.outdoorstructures.com.au/gallery.php?qid=95&SID=2>
The larger capacity machinery we installed under the Regional Partnership grant was a critical part in facilitating this painful process of reinvention. This financial year saw a turnaround through new products and a return of the customers.

We believe it is very important for small companies who want to move outside the box to be encouraged to do so through a range of government programmes. We have found that the administrative requirements on all of the grants was not beyond most companies and that the reporting requirements were not a burden.

I have attached a number of documents which reflect upon the achievements of the Regional Partnerships grant.

Regards

Ted Stubbersfield

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15 July 2008

Cindy Baker
Executive Officer
Ipswich and Regional
Area Consultative Committee
P O Box 377
IPSWICH QLD 4305

Dear Cindy

RE: INQUIRY INTO NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this inquiry.

Work was completed on the Fassifern Community Centre in November 2006 and this was made possible through Regional Partnerships contributions. The old building was then renovated and refurbished as new overnight respite accommodation, providing short-term 24 hour a day respite for people with disability since July 2007. This overnight respite facility offers respite services on a regular basis to 9 families for short stays of up to four days at a time. Prior to July 2007, there was no overnight respite facility in the local area for people with disability aged under 65. These people had to stay in the aged care facility if they required overnight respite. Since the facility opened in July 2007, over 100 nights of respite have been provided to meet this local need.

A car park with 17 places, including 'disability only' parks, complements the buildings. This means that more people with a disability are regularly accessing all services at the Centre.

The new multifunctional purpose-built community centre is the hub for a greater number of services with many services and community groups able to operate simultaneously. An example of some of the services include the Get Set for Work Program, Centrelink Agency, parents and carers attending the Autistic Spectrum Disorders Support Group, Pilates, Women's Health Library, Work Venture, Family Relationships Centre outreach service, and the Boonah Carers Group.



A Service Group of Queensland Baptists
PO Box 6166 Mitchellton QLD 4053
Ph 07 5550 3737 Email qbcb@qb.com.au
All donations are Tax deductible



An agency of Queensland Baptist Care
AUN 45 707 814 617

In 2008, there has been a further increase in new service provisions with the addition of emergency relief services - St Vincent de Paul Society, a new private family and child counselling service, Impact Jobs, and Drug and Alcohol counselling.

The expansion of services and the opening of the overnight respite facility has led to the creation of 8 new jobs with 10 new volunteer positions providing proven pathways to paid employment.

This Regional Partnerships project is continuing to have positive flow-on effects in that the community centre and its expanded services are now regarded as best practice in our community and in disability sectors. Other non-government service providers in southeast Queensland have visited and been inspired to develop similar community-inclusive, multi-functional community facilities.

I trust this information is of benefit. If I can assist further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kay Faulkner".

Kay Faulkner
Program Manager/Community Development Officer
Fassifern Community Centre.