

10 July, 2008

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

Dear Sir/Madam

The Yorke Regional Development Board is part of the South Australian Framework for facilitating economic and regional development. The Board is funded in partnership with the South Australian Government through the Department for Trade and Economic Development and represents Five Councils within the Yorke region.

This submission is made in the context of the Board's association and working relationships with both the Sturt and Flinders Area Consultative Committees and our knowledge of the Regional Partnerships Program.

1. Future Funding of Regional Programs

The Terms of Reference seeks advice on funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.

- Ensure the program is managed through a smaller geographical network with adequate staffing arrangements to decrease the timeframe from draft application to approval.
- That significant projects (\$150k +) have undertaken Public consultation processes prior for consideration for funding.
- That the criteria for Regional Partnerships have an Economic development slant and could be administered similar to other State Government Funds i.e.; Regional Development Infrastructure Fund

2. Examine ways to minimize administrative Costs and Duplication

- The Regional Development Board network has greater access to the Community and gets good response and attendance rates across the variety of events, also there is direct access to Community issues that are suitable for Regional Partnership Funding. Therefore it makes sense that the Partnership funding is distributed at the Local Community Level.
- The above could be administered through the Regional Development or Local Government Network with the inclusion of an administrative support fee structure.

The above will provide for considerable scope for achieving administrative savings and avoiding duplication along with Local Level points of contact for a wide range of clients and gives the funding programs greater exposure at the right level

3. Examine Former Governments Practices

The only comment to be made in this section is the size of the Geographical areas of distribution for the funding and the Resourcing

We are aware of examples where projects have been subject to lengthy delays, either as a consequence of satisfying the application requirements at the local level or simply the time taken to assess and for notification of approval.

Thank you for the invitation to submit to the Inquiry into a New Regional Development Funding Program.

Yours Sincerely

Warwick Welsh
CEO
Yorke Regional Development Board