

NORTHERN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD INC.

NRDB



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25th August 2008

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

Dear Sir / Madam

Re: Inquiry into a new Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program

The following is a combined submission from the Northern Regional Development Board Inc and the District Council of Coober Pedy, detailing the importance of a continued Regional funding program that enables necessary upgrades and establishment of integral infrastructure within remote locations.

The previous Regional Partnerships Program provided funding opportunities for the aforementioned and it is the recommendation of both the Board and District Council that the new Regional and Local Infrastructure Program continues to deliver 'major investments in regional and local community, recreational and environmental infrastructure initiatives'.

Whilst it is recommended that various forms of Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Programs be considered, both the Northern Regional Development Board and the District Council of Coober Pedy would recommend that any new funding program implemented ensured the provision of funding for aviation and regionally based airport facility upgrades.

Furthermore, it is also recommended that an interim funding body be commissioned to enable communities, particularly those in remote locations, to access funding in the event that similar inquiries are undertaken. The difficulty in engaging appropriate Federal funding sources during such periods may result in missed opportunities for regional and remote communities with potentially adverse affects on growth and sustainability within a region.

The ongoing support of Federal funding initiatives is essential to the economic growth of regions and it is trusted that the above recommendations will be considered by the Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Regional Development and Local Government.

Yours Faithfully

Chad Menzies
Far North Economic Development Manager
Northern Regional Development Board