



# SUPERYACHT BASE

---

# B R I S B A N E

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,  
Regional Development and Local Government  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600  
e-mail: [itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au)

Dear Sir/Madam

Please accept our submission to the Standing Committee inquiry concerning the Regional Partnership application submitted by Super Yacht Base Brisbane - BMIC (SYBB) through Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee (GBACC) to the Department of Transport and Regional Services (DOTARS) in March 2007.

SYBB is a not-for-profit association aimed at pursuing strategic partnerships to build business collaboration for the future of the marine industry, businesses and associated infrastructure; to promote Brisbane's Marine precinct as a premier Superyacht refit and maintenance destination. SYBB currently represents about 45 business members, whom have shown their commitment through membership, to the continued growth of the industry. This commitment is paralleled by the Queensland Government, Department of Tourism Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) and Brisbane City Council (BCC) support of the project - a priority industry of both the Queensland and Federal Governments.

The commitment by industry and government is further highlighted through the attached letter from DTRDI, supporting this project and requesting the department to reconsider the rejection of this project and provide Federal funding to SYBB through the most efficient funding mechanisms available to the Department of Infrastructure. Further to this, Department of Tourism, Regional Development and Industry (DTRDI) have completed contracts with SYBB providing \$80,000 of Government funding; conditional of SYBB obtaining federal funding. Financial support has also been provided by Brisbane City Council (BCC) for investment and marketing attraction initiatives.

The aims of the projects activity will result in the development of a stronger marine industry cluster, in the Brisbane area; more able to bring about changes in regional development. Future opportunities that may be lost if further delays in obtaining federal funding continue.

**Terms of Reference (TOR) 4:** *Examine the former government's practices and grants in the Regional Partnerships Program after the audit period of 2003-2006 with the aim of providing advice on future funding of regional programs.*

The application made by SYBB is considered properly made and was submitted to the Department through the GBACC after considerable consultation with industry, government and relevant entities to ensure transparent and best practice processes were met.

The granting of the funding submission is considered consistent with the new Department of Infrastructure's priorities and so we urge you to reconsider this project, ideally through departmental mechanisms recently put in place and employed by Minister Albanese. This process would minimize delays and thus make SYBB better prepared to meet the project challenges and achieve the desired outcomes.

Only unfortunate timing prevented this project from being considered by Minister Albanese when he approved the 86 not-for-profit projects previously rejected. As demonstrated by the Courier Mail article of November 2007 (attached) the project had, in fact, received approval within DOTARS. However, it appears that this decision was caught up in the upcoming Federal elections preventing the project from being formally included in the final list of DOTARS approved projects: Mr Ross Vasta instead announced that the application approval had become one of his Party's election promises conditional on their re-election. The application was then caught up in the Machinery of Government changes and was removed from consideration when the Regional Partnerships program was cancelled.

The SYBB project should be eligible for consideration through that review mechanism as it was set up expressly to address worthy projects of this kind. The SYBB submission shares many similarities with those 86 approved projects: it is run by a not-for-profit organisation, supports infrastructure, community and regional development initiatives, and is financially supported by other government bodies: both the BCC and the Queensland Government.

The alternative of this project being considered under the new Departmental funding programs, while very possible, would be less than ideal due to the considerable delay that has already occurred while awaiting a Regional Partnership Program decision: the project has been in the system for over 18 months and opportunities will continue to be lost if further significant delays result.

**TOR 1 -** *Provide advice on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects.*

This project has been judged genuine, worthwhile and accountable by SYBB successfully obtaining support after going through the rigorous selection process at three levels of Government: local, state and federal. The aims of the activity that will result in the development of a stronger marine cluster in the Brisbane area more able to bring about changes in regional development.

As alluded to in the DOTARS application, this outcome will, in turn, facilitate the development of new infrastructure, investment and trade opportunities. Resulting in combined regional development outcomes through the promotion of the Brisbane region overseas and skills development objectives. These aims are supported by SYBB close links with infrastructure and regional development organisations such as the Queensland Government and by Brisbane City Council's financial support of this project.

**TOR 2 - Examine ways to minimize administrative costs and duplication for taxpayers:**

This project application represents the culmination of hundreds of hours work by industry and local, state and federal government levels. The input from industry and use of their business resources to put the application forward, coupled with government work that represents tax-payers money. If this application is not reconsidered, the tax-payers money that went into developing this project will be lost, and unrecoupable industry resource hours and labour, that are already stretched due to considerable growth in the industry - which further highlights the need for the project to be considered.

While the project could well be considered under the new Departmental funding scheme, this would represent the duplication of efforts with limited resources, since it has already been shown to have gained internal approval from DOTARS.

We seek commitment from federal government that funding for the project be considered and approved. We await your favorable response.

Yours sincerely



Ben Schooley  
Chairman  
Superyacht Base Brisbane.

