

Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee Inc.

The link between business, government and community,
playing a key role in regional development in Brisbane,
Logan and Redlands.

SUBMISSION 148



Building 15
Garden City Office Park
2404 Logan Road
Eight Mile Plains Q 4113
Australia

T: 07 3340 2333
F: 07 3841 8450
M: 0419 751 846
E: mblade@gbacc.com.au
W: www.gbacc.com.au

**Greater
Brisbane
ACC**

14 July 2008

Mr Michael Crawford
Inquiry Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development and Local Government
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
Email: itrdlg.reps@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Crawford

RE: Inquiry into a new regional development funding program

Thank you for your invitation to provide a submission to the Standing Committee's Inquiry.

The Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee Inc (GBACC) is made up of 17 members from across the region including representatives from a range of stakeholder groups within Brisbane, Redlands and Logan who have contributed to the responses within this submission.

The strength of this organisation comes from our membership, staff, engagement and relationships with stakeholders and bipartisanship across all levels of Government to achieve genuine community outcomes.

This submission carefully considers all past processes in delivering regional funding to purposeful projects and recommends the following:

- Consideration of the highly effective Greater Brisbane Area Consultative Committee (ACC) model in development and implementation of the new regional funding program
- An application process that continues to include specialist staff within Regional Development Australia (RDA) in application development and the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government (DITRD LG) in the process of assessment of regional funding projects
- Decision-making responsibility for regional funding project applications should be through an independent board



An Australian Government Initiative



ACCs
The Australian Government's
Regional Development Network

- Simplified transparent processes and user-friendly systems, tools and communication strategies be adopted
- Adherence to stated and agreed assessment process timeframes and full commitment to project funding requests
- Commitment by the program to genuine infrastructure that is inclusive of both hard and soft infrastructure that value adds to whole of community.

To reflect the views and concerns of the GBACC, attached are detailed responses to the Inquiry's Terms of Reference (refer Attachment A) as formulated by the GBACC Regional Development Sub-committee comprising 9 representatives from business, government and community stakeholders and endorsed by the Greater Brisbane ACC full committee.

Following the Senate Inquiry into the Regional Partnerships Program in 2005 and subsequent ANAO audit, the GBACC was proactive in adapting and adopting our practices to effectively respond to the changes and complexity of systems and processes that were put in place. The GBACC model is worthy of consideration as a revised national framework.

The GBACC has succeeded in meeting its obligations to the previous regional funding program. We have performed despite the recognised flaws of systems and processes outlined in the ANAO report and incongruence in the delivery of the program.

A final comment to consider would be that the future program should have equitable status with other Federal Government funding programs, and not be perceived as a 'last resort' for communities and communities of interest. This program should be pivotal to investing in genuine regional economic development and community infrastructure by the Federal Government.

We look forward that the future direction of the program may reflect the collective feedback by our stakeholders and members reflected in this submission.

We would welcome the opportunity to elaborate on the contents of this submission or have further input at a hearing or roundtable discussion of the Standing Committee.

Yours sincerely

Bill Watson
Chair



An Australian Government Initiative

