

**Nhulunbuy
Corporation
Limited**
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SUBMISSION 48

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26th June, 2008

Mr. Michael Crawford
Inquiry Secretary
Standing Committee on Infrastructure, Transport, Regional
Development and Local Government.
PO Box 6021
Parliament House,
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr. Crawford,

INQUIRY INTO A NEW REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDING PROGRAM
- FUNDING RECIPIENTS AND NON RECIPIENTS

I refer to your correspondence of 10th June, 2008 to Mr Col Fuller AM, Chair of the ACC Northern Territory extending an invitation to recipients of Regional Partnerships (RP) program funding to make a submission to the subject inquiry.

The Nhulunbuy Corporation limited (NCL) is a public company limited by guarantee that provides the municipal services including the management and operation of the mining township of Nhulunbuy located in remote East Arnhemland and the Gove Airport in accordance with a service agreement signed with the mining company Rio Tinto Alcan - Gove operations (RTA).

The NCL is not a recognised local governing authority by the NT Government and do not receive federal assistance grant subsidies, untied NT Government funding and remit payroll tax (\$120K).

NCL was successful in receiving \$55K funding in 2006 toward a tyre and timber shredder at the Nhulunbuy Waste Management Facility (Application No RP02586)

With regard to NCL's thoughts on future funding of regional programs in order to invest in genuine and accountable community infrastructure projects. The RP scheme gave an avenue for NCL to secure Federal Government funding that previously was not available to our organisation and we were extremely disappointed to see this scheme discontinued by the Rudd Labour Government. My overall plan with the RP scheme was to have a signature project per budget year and source NCL, RTA, NT Government and then through this scheme source Federal Government support as well. The type of projects NCL would be making applications for include Mini Skate Park, Town

Pool Kiosk and Clubrooms upgrade, Town Hall upgrade, new Multi-Purpose Centre (including Cyclone shelter) or new offices for the Company. SUBMISSION 48

On the second issue of designing regional programs in away to minimise administrative cost and duplication for taxpayers. This was my only real concern with the RP program i.e. the overload of administrative work in getting projects off the ground as well as interim / final reporting plus acquittals and signage required. I know today's society is founded on transparency and good Corporate Governance, however the whole RP application process needs to be streamlined with timelines reduced.

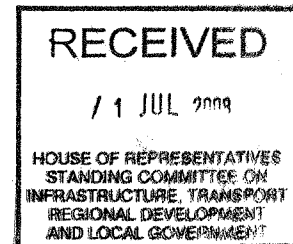
With regard to issues three (3) and four (4) I have no real comments on the reported practice of RP funding the Howard Liberal Government's election promises. However, I have found the Northern Territory ACC branch to be a very respectable and professional organisation which was only just starting to get on a roll with a number of projects meeting the RP guidelines and numerous applications in Canberra awaiting approval prior to the scheme being discontinued.

In closing, Michael, I request that the Rudd Labour government act quickly and decisively either to reinstate the existing RP scheme or develop a new system where small communities projects can source Federal Government funding for residents in remote communities such as Nhulunbuy. If you have any concerns or require clarification of the above please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully
NHULUNBUY CORPORATION LIMITED



Paul Hockings
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR



cc Jarry Kovarik, NTACC