

*Reference:*

Dear

I refer to your Project (the Project) that was approved for funding on Date by the previous government under the Regional Partnerships program.

You received a letter dated 13 May 2008 from me informing you that your project would not be funded due to the closure of the Regional Partnerships program.

The Government had to close the Regional Partnerships program in response to the Australian National Audit Office's three-volume, 1.200-page report, which found that "*the manner in which the program had been administered...had fallen short of an acceptable standard of public administration*".

It is clear from our discussions with various community organisations and local councils that many were led to believe that funding agreements had been finalised with the previous government. This has placed them in a difficult situation.

Therefore the Government is offering all not-for-profit and local government organisations with an approved and uncontracted Regional Partnerships project the opportunity to finalise their contract with the Commonwealth.

Your project will be eligible for contracting if the Government is satisfied that your project meets the Regional Partnerships program criteria and you have already entered into commitments in good faith based on the advice of the previous government.

In addition, you must meet the conditions of your original funding approval and finalise contract negotiations and sign a contract by 31 July 2008.

If your project involves construction and/or requires a tender process you will have until 31 December 2008 to commence your project and/or have your tender process completed. If your project does not involve construction or require a tender process, you must have commenced your project within six weeks of contract execution. Please be aware that non-compliance with this contracting condition may result in termination of the contract and withdrawal of funding.

The Australian Government Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government will contact you seeking documentation that demonstrates the above requirements. In order to meet the 31 July 2008 deadline, please provide this information promptly to the Department.

If you require further information, please contact the Department by email at <[Regionalgrants@infrastructure.gov.au](mailto:Regionalgrants@infrastructure.gov.au)> or through the departmental information line on 1800 038 160.