



HON WARREN TRUSS MP
Minister for Transport and Regional Services
Deputy Leader of The Nationals

Reference: 07997-2005

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA
Chief Minister
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 1020
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Dear Mr Stanhope

I write in regard to your submission to the Senate Inquiry into the *Regional Partnerships* and *Sustainable Regions* program. I note the concerns you raised regarding the eligibility of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Government for funding under the *Regional Partnerships* program.

I recognise that the ACT Legislative Assembly governs the Territory with a combination of state/territory and local government functions, and as a key social and economic driver plays a role as a focal point for delivery of regional services to the Territory and the surrounding region.

I would like to emphasise that local governments are eligible for *Regional Partnerships* program funding under the current guidelines and at this level the ACT Government is eligible for funds under the established guidelines.

A revision of the *Regional Partnerships* guidelines will clarify the eligibility of applications for which the ACT Government is the proponent. The assessment will be on a case by case basis and will exclude projects that are considered state/territory government responsibilities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Truss', written over a horizontal line.

WARREN TRUSS